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FBIS-SOV-91-236 — CONTENTS — 9 December 1991

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS: The United States Government recognizes the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arms Control & Disarmament

Streltsov on Importance of 'Nuclear Stability' *[TASS]* 1
Military Observer on Achieving Disarmament *[Moscow International]* 1

Worldwide Issues

Churkin Holds External Relations Briefing 1
    Former Union Officials Meet *[TASS]* 1
    28-29 Jan Near East Meeting *[TASS]* 2
    RSA President Visit Announced *[TASS]* 2
Churkin's Statement on Ukraine Examined *[INTERFAX]* 2
Gorbachev Expected at Young Leaders Congress *[TASS]* 3
Foreign Banks React To Delay in Debt Payment *[TASS]* 3
Republic Delegations Attending OIC Meeting *[TASS]* 3

United States & Canada

Gorbachev Warns Against 'Crumbling of Reforms' *[TASS]* 4
Gorbachev Views Role of Union Presidency *[TASS]* 4
Secretary Baker To Visit Moscow, Kiev, Minsk *[TASS]* 4
    Goals for Trip Cited *[TASS]* 4
Baker's Concern About Events in Union Cited *[TASS]* 5
U.S. Consultations Focus on Bilateral Issues *[TASS]* 5
KGB Removes Protection From U.S. Defector *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 Dec]* 5

Northeast Asia

Japanese Envoy To Discuss Commonwealth *[TASS]* 6

Near East & South Asia

Gorbachev Praises Palestinian Peace Efforts *[TASS]* 6
Foreign Ministry's Role in Mideast Questioned *[PRAVDA 5 Dec]* 6
Israeli-Arab Differences Over Talks Noted *[IZVESTIYA 5 Dec]* 7
Egyptian Envoy Comments on Soviet Role, Talks *[Cairo MENA]* 7

East Europe

Further on Hungarian Premier's Moscow Visit 8
    Gorbachev Admits 1956 'Interference' *[TASS]* 8
    Gorbachev, Antall Comment *[TASS]* 8
    Gorbachev-Antall Meeting Viewed *[Budapest MTI]* 9
    Antall Interviewed on Visit *[Moscow International]* 9
    Hungarian Foreign Minister Cited *[Budapest MTI]* 10
    Commentary Examines Visit *[Moscow International]* 10

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Congress of People's Deputies

Emergency Congress Proposed To Restore Order *[TASS]* 12

Supreme Soviet

Armed Forces Committee Reviews Status Quo 12
  Conscription Law Changes *[Moscow Radio]* 12
  Construction Detachments Examined *[Moscow Radio]* 12
  Budget 'Unrealistic' *[Radio Rossii]* 12

Political & Social

Gorbachev Addresses New Problems, Own Position 12
  More 'Complicated', 'Entangled' *[Radio Rossii]* 12
  Grants Interview to Paris TV 12
  'High Hopes' on Minsk Meeting *[INTERFAX]* 19
Gorbachev Meets With Republic Leaders 19
  'Fourth Russian Revolution' *[Moscow TV]* 19
  Three Presidents Meet *[Moscow Radio]* 19
  Yeltsin To Represent Others *[INTERFAX]* 19
  Joined by Mutalibov, Nabiyev *[Moscow Radio]* 20
  Gorbachev To Make Statement *[TASS]* 20
  Grachev on Results of Meeting *[Moscow TV]* 20
'Text' of Statement on Foreign Debt *[TASS]* 20
Gorbachev Urges Food Agreement Implementation 21
  Alerts of Moscow Food Shortage *[TASS]* 21
  Prices, Delivery Accords Signed *[INTERFAX]* 21
  More on Agreements *[TASS]* 22
  Silayev on Talks *[Russian TV]* 22
  Silayev News Conference *[TASS]* 23
  Centralized Food Fund Established *[INTERFAX]* 23
Deputy Claims Generals Preparing Overthrow *[Radio Rossii]* 24
Gorbachev Addresses Question of Resignation *[Radio Rossii]* 24
Zhirinovskiy Appeals to Military Personnel *[INTERFAX]* 24
TASS Carries Press Review for 7 Dec 25

Military

Lobov Removed Due to 'State of Health' 25
  'Conspiracy' Reported *[Berlin ADN]* 25
  Decision 'Unexpected' *[INTERFAX]* 25
  Samsonov Qualifications Assessed *[Radio Rossii]* 26
Gromov Appointed Ground Forces First Deputy *[TASS]* 26
Nuclear Weapons Talks With Ukraine Denied 26
  Transfer of Warheads Alleged *[TASS]* 26
  Shaposhnikov on Ukraine *[INTERFAX]* 26
Claim That Ship Sailed to Avoid Seizure Denied *[Moscow International]* 27
Ministry Prepared To Examine Moldovan Charges *[TASS]* 27
Gorbachev Sanctions Ministry Property Sales *[INTERFAX]* 27
Yeltsin Pay Raise Decree Needs Gorbachev Assent *[IZVESTIYA 7 Dec]* 27

BALTIC COUNTRIES

Baltic Affairs

Leaders Sign Paris Charter; Embassies Opened *[Vilnius Radio]* 29

Estonia

- Foreign Ministry Protests Gorbachev Accusations *[BALTFAX]* 29
- Cabinet Concerned Over Soviet Troops Presence *[BALTFAX]* 29
- Draft Constitution Scraps 1920 Border Provision *[BALTFAX]* 29

Latvia

- Leaders View Moscow Talks, Economic Agreement *[BALTFAX]* 29
- Trade, Economic Pact With Armenia Signed *[BALTFAX]* 30

Lithuania

- Prime Minister Warns of Increase in Terrorism *[Vilnius International]* 30
- State Security Department To Be Liquidated *[BALTFAX]* 30
- Reports of Press Nationalization 'Not True' *[Vilnius Radio]* 30

RSFSR

Interrepublic Affairs

- Yeltsin Previews Minsk Meeting on Commonwealth 31
  - Discusses Meeting With Kravchuk, Fokin *[Radio Rossii]* 31
  - Says No Treaty Without Ukraine *[INTERFAX]* 31
- Yeltsin Informs Bush on 3 Republics' Accord *[TASS]* 31
- Yeltsin Returns; Journalists Barred From Airport *[TASS]* 31
- Kozyrev, Burbulis Brief Press on Commonwealth *[Moscow Radio]* 31
  - Burbulis on Creation of Commonwealth *[INTERFAX]* 32
  - Burbulis: USSR Does Not Exist *[Radio Rossii]* 32
  - Kozyrev on 'Atomic Button' Control *[INTERFAX]* 33
  - Kozyrev Expects Others To Join *[Moscow International]* 33
- Spokesman Says Options Open on Economy *[TASS]* 33
- Kozyrev: Commonwealth Open to East Europe *[Hamburg DPA]* 33
- Official Says USSR Bodies No Longer Exist *[Radio Rossii]* 34
  - Foreign Ministry No Longer Exists *[INTERFAX]* 34

Supreme Soviet

- Law on 28 Percent Value Added Tax Adopted *[TASS]* 34
  - Statement on New Tax *[TASS]* 35
  - Spokesman Comments on Tax *[INTERFAX]* 35
- Legislature Continues Work on Taxation Laws *[TASS]* 35
- Law on Local Administration Bodies Passed *[TASS]* 36
- Minimum Wage Implementation Postponed to 1 Jan *[Moscow Radio]* 36

Federation Affairs

- Gaydar Discusses Rutskoy Comments, Economy *[POSTFACTUM]* 36
- 'Closed Session' of Government Reported *[IZVESTIYA 6 Dec]* 36
- Yeltsin Adviser Briefs Press on Economic Reforms *[IZVESTIYA 5 Dec]* 37
- Health Minister Says Medicine Prices To Rise *[TASS]* 37
- Fund Official Says No Delay in Dec Pensions *[Radio Rossii]* 37
- Yeltsin Appoints Regional Administrators *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 6 Dec]* 37
- Lawsuit Against Military Commander Stopped *[POSTFACTUM]* 38

Local Affairs

- Popov: Suspension of Privatization Order Illegal *[INTERFAX]* 38
- Moscow Demonstrators Protest Lack of 'Essentials' *[TASS]* 38
- Trade Unions Blame Moscow Mayor for Economy *[TASS]* 38
- Dudayev on Reports on Chechen-Ingush Refugees *[Moscow TV]* 39

Chechen President Grants Asylum to Honecker *[Moscow Radio]* 39
Access to Chechen Republic Information Hampered *[TASS]* 39
Ingush Poll Backs Sovereignty Within RSFSR *[IZVESTIYA 5 Dec]* 39
N. Ossetian OMON Fires on Ingush *[Radio Rossii]* 40
North Ossetia Appeals to Yeltsin on S. Ossetia *[TASS]* 40
Volunteers Take Oath for North Ossetia Guard *[Russian TV]* 40
Tension 'Suits' N. Ossetia Nomenklatura *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 30 Nov]* 40
Tatarstan Signs Economic Accord With Federation *[Moscow Radio]* 41
    Prime Minister Reviews Moscow Talks *[TASS]* 42
Tatarstan Sets Foreign Economic Activity Rules *[INTERFAX]* 42

International Affairs

Further on Relations, Treaty With Hungary *[TASS]* 42
    Diplomatic Relations Established *[INTERFAX]* 42
    Treaties To Fill 'Gap' *[Moscow TV]* 43
    Yeltsin Cited on Outcome *[Moscow Radio]* 43
    Antall Views Talks *[Budapest MTI]* 43
Yeltsin Postpones Hungary, Romania Visits *[Russian TV]* 44
Gaydar Addresses Soviet-U.S. Trade Conference *[PRAVDA 5 Dec]* 44
Sakhalin Governor Discusses 'Options' for Kurils *[PRAVDA 6 Dec]* 45

WESTERN REPUBLICS

Interrepublic Affairs

Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia Form 'Community' *[TASS]* 47
    Declaration on New Commonwealth *[TASS]* 47
    Declaration on Economic Policy *[TASS]* 48
    Shushkevich Comments on Agreement *[Radio Rossii]* 48
    Yeltsin Holds News Conference *[IZVESTIYA 9 Dec]* 49
    Yeltsin on Union, Other Issues *[INTERFAX]* 50
    Yeltsin, Shushkevich News Conference *[TASS]* 50
    Yeltsin's Arrival Statement in Minsk *[TASS]* 50
Minsk Meeting 'Beginning of Consensus' *[IZVESTIYA 7 Dec]* 50
    IZVESTIYA Comments on Meeting *[6 Dec]* 51
Kravchuk Rejects Responsibility for Union *[Moscow Radio]* 51
Republics Demand Russia Postpone Price Changes *[Moscow International]* 52
Leaders Concerned About Moldovan Events *[TASS]* 52

Belorussia

Republic, Russia Sign Economic Agreement *[INTERFAX]* 52
    Sign Cooperation, Friendship Treaty *[TASS]* 52
Republic Assumes Right to Issue Visas *[TASS]* 53
Republic Facing Secession Choice *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 6 Dec]* 53
Shushkevich Denies Claim of Imminent Coup *[Moscow TV]* 53

Moldova

Preliminary Results Show Snegur Wins Election *[INTERFAX]* 54
    Over 80 Percent of Citizens Vote *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 54
    Elections Situation Updated *[Moscow Radio]* 54
    Leaders Comment After Vote *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 54
    Snegur Praises Observers *[Radio Rossii]* 55
    Snegur Notes Platform, Answers Questions *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 55
Transdnestrian Separatists Disrupt Elections *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 55
    Interior Ministry on Unrest *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 56
Leaders' UN Appeal Warns of 'Fascist Coup' *[Bucharest Radio]* 56
Odessa Commander Denies Allegations *[TASS]* 57
Defense Chief: Yakovlev Post Means 'War' *[INTERFAX]* 58

Ukraine

Kravchuk Sees No Need for New Center *[TASS]* 58
Kravchuk, Others on Defense, Union, Arms *[Budapest Radio]* 58
Foreign Minister Views New Political Concept *[Kiev Radio]* 59
Laws on Structure of Defense Forces Passed *[INTERFAX]* 60
President Receives U.S. Undersecretary of State *[TASS]* 60
State Treaty Signed With Hungary *[TASS]* 61
CSFR Recognizes Independence *[TASS]* 61
Price Administrator Explains Policy *[URYADOVYY KURYER Nov]* 61
Bukovina Groups Contest Referendum *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 62

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Vice President: Economy Virtually Paralyzed *[INTERFAX]* 63
Economic Cooperation Accord With Latvia Signed *[Moscow Russian TV]* 63

Azerbaijan

Further on Events in Nagorno-Karabakh 63
    Commander on Troop Withdrawal *[Moscow TV]* 63
    Shootings Reported; Talks Continue *[TASS]* 63
    Dialogue With Armenia To Resume *[TASS]* 64
Republic To Vote on Independence 29 Dec *[Baku Radio]* 64

Georgia

Further on Military Situation in South Ossetia 64
    USSR Military Issues Appeal *[INTERFAX]* 64
    Internal Affairs Ministry Statement *[Tbilisi Radio]* 65
    General Mobilization Ordered *[TASS]* 65
    Supreme Council Appeals to UN *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 6 Dec]* 65
Legislature Says South Ossetia Moves 'Invalid' *[TASS]* 66
General Condemns Attacks on Units in Tbilisi *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 29 Nov]* 66
Cooperation Treaty With Latvia Signed 6 Dec *[BALTFAX]* 66
Cabinet Restricts Sale of Food, Other Goods *[Tbilisi Radio]* 67

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev on Political, Military Agreement *[Russian TV]* 68
Russian Paper Welcomes Election of Nazarbayev *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 Dec]* 68
Council Considers Resettlement Program for 1992 *[POSTFACTUM]* 69
Municipal Leader Halts Alma-Ata Privatization *[POSTFACTUM]* 69
Leninist Communist Party Congress Opened 6 Dec *[Russian TV]* 69

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Issues Decrees on Social Support, Taxes *[TASS]* 69

Tajikistan

Bilateral Agreement Signed With Azerbaijan *[Dushanbe Radio]* 69
Pakistan Resolutions on Afghanistan Supported *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Electricity Supply to Industry Cut 15% *[TASS]* 70

Turkmenia

President Niyazov Signs Agreement in Turkey *[Moscow TV]* 70
Foreign Minister Kuliyev Interviewed *[INTERFAX]* 70

Uzbekistan

Treaty To Be Signed on Assuming Union Debts *[Moscow International]* 71
Presidential Candidate Favors Independence *[INTERFAX]* 71
Movement for Democratic Reforms Holds Congress *[Moscow TV]* 72
Supreme Soviet Delegation Visiting Malaysia *[TASS]* 72

Arms Control & Disarmament

Streltsov on Importance of 'Nuclear Stability'

LD0812044991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1313 GMT 7 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Boris Shabayev]

[Excerpts] Geneva, 7 Dec (TASS)—The treaty between the USSR and the United States on eliminating medium and shorter-range missiles was an unprecedented breakthrough in the disarmament sphere. The document signed in December 1987 in Washington was thus described by Ambassador Mikhail Streltsov, head of the Soviet delegation in the special verification commission which was set up to implement the treaty in practice, and which is currently in session in Geneva. [passage omitted]

The new situation which has arisen following the proclamation of independence by the republics which are members of the Union naturally engenders its own problems, Ambassador Streltsov commented. For example, on the territory of the Baltic states there are installations which in accordance with the agreement on medium- and shorter-range missiles should still be subject to inspections for another 10 years. How is this problem to be tackled? Another example: The treaty on strategic offensive weapons sets "ceilings" on certain forms of weapons, some of which are located on the territory of the Ukraine. Who will ratify this treaty? At the expense of which republic will the reduction take place? A major component of strategic security is nuclear stability, and maintenance of this security insistently demands that the situation should be clarified without delay, and that we should not stand still or allow any pause in the process of disarmament which is now gathering speed.

Military Observer on Achieving Disarmament

LD0812140591 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1910 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Commentary by military observer Captain First Rank Aleksandr Yakovlev]

[Excerpts] In today's program our military observer, Captain First Rank Aleksandr Yakovlev, tells how the Soviet president's new initiatives to bring nuclear disarmament are being translated into reality in this country.

The Soviet Union, in particular, has already carried out a whole range of essential measures, says General Vladimir Lobov, the chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces.

[Lobov is heard briefly in Russian, fading into English translation] The Soviet side is taking practical steps, Gen. Lobov said. I'd like to stress two of them: The Soviet Union has taken strategic aviation bombers off the round-the-clock duty. Besides, it has declared a moratorium on nuclear testing. Since the Soviet Union has been holding no nuclear tests for several years already it means that it has ceased developing nuclear weapons. Gen. Lobov went on to say that the Soviet Union has stopped modernizing a short-range nuclear missile for heavy bombers and a mobile small size intercontinental ballistic missile.

A hundred and twenty-nine intercontinental ballistic missiles have been taken off the round-the-clock duty. The elimination has begun of their silos. A total of 503 intercontinental ballistic missiles with 1,094 nuclear warheads are planned to be phased out. Three nuclear submarines with 44 missile launchers have already been withdrawn from the Navy. Three more with 48 missile launchers will also be withdrawn. Instead of 6,000 strategic missiles allowed by the START treaty, the Soviet Union plans to leave 5,000. Their dismantling will begin in the second half of next year and will be completed by the year 2000. The term is prolonged because the Soviet Union plans to eliminate much more weapons than the United States. On the whole, 15,000 nuclear warheads will be scrapped. The profile [as heard] nuclear weapons reductions announced unilaterally by the Soviet Union and the United States are being carried out in keeping with the principle of goodwill and mutual trust.

Worldwide Issues

Churkin Holds External Relations Briefing

Former Union Officials Meet

LD0612181491 Moscow TASS in English 1629 GMT 6 Dec 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Igor Peskov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow December 6 TASS—Ranking officials of the foreign ministries of the 12 remaining republics of the former USSR met in Moscow a few days ago to discuss ways of promoting international cultural, scientific and technical exchanges.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin told journalists here today that the foreign ministries of the republics are against preserving the centralized system of foreign cultural relations. Because of shortages of hard currency and other resources, however, the ministers will maintain a department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry to provide consultations and other assistance to republics in planning and implementing external cultural policies.

Churkin said the leadership of the Union Foreign Ministry instructed the Soviet embassies abroad to render necessary assistance to the foreign ministries of the remaining republics and help them establish and maintain cultural and scientific contacts with other countries.

28-29 Jan Near East Meeting

LD0612182291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1500 GMT 6 Dec 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Igor Peskov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Dec (TASS)—In the near future, the USSR and the U.S., as co-chairmen of the Near East peace conference, will be holding consultations with all interested sides on convening a meeting in Moscow on 28-29 January on the subject of Near East problems. This was reported to journalists today by Vitaliy Churkin, chief of the USSR Ministry of External Relations Information Directorate.

After consultations, it is proposed to send official invitations to the Moscow meeting. This initiative by Moscow and Washington pursues the aim of organizing multilateral talks on problems of a regional nature in the Near East which should facilitate setting up an Arab-Israeli dialogue. As for the already- announced Arab-Israeli talks which should have begun on 4 December, the diplomat stressed that the Soviet Union and the United States are interested in seeing them start as soon as possible and in seeing continuity in the peace process. As is known, the Israeli delegation did not come to Washington for the appointed time. However, according to chief of the USSR Ministry of External Relations Information Directorate, the difficulties that arose in that connection do not look insurmountable. Vitaliy Churkin highly appraised the "constructive approach" shown by delegations that came to the U.S. capital.

RSA President Visit Announced

LD0612180991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1440 GMT 6 Dec 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Igor Peskov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Dec (TASS)—South African President Frederik de Klerk will arrive in Moscow on 13 December. This was reported today during a briefing by Vitaliy Churkin, head of the USSR Ministry of External Relations Information Directorate. The expected visit, which is to take place on the initiative of the South African side, has become possible due to positive changes in South Africa, as well as the USSR's desire to assist the talks process which is happening there. At the same time, Moscow attaches great significance to contacts with the leadership of anti-apartheid organizations, especially the African National Congress. Vitaliy Churkin also said that the question of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries will probably be discussed during the course of talks with the South African president, particularly as the South African side has raised this more than once.

Churkin's Statement on Ukraine Examined

OW0612085491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0600 GMT 6 Dec 91

["Diplomatic Panorama" feature by Igor Porshnev: "Referendum in the Ukraine: Discordant Appraisals"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Independence opens even greater opportunities for the free and absolutely voluntary participation of the Ukraine in the formation of a qualitatively new state entity in our country. Respecting, without reservations, the sovereign will of the Ukrainian citizens, we do not view the results of the referendum as the act of an automatic separation from the Union," said Vitaliy Churkin, director of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Information Department, at a Moscow briefing.

Mr. Churkin's statement must reflect not only the position of both the Union Foreign Ministry and its head, Eduard Shevardnadze, but also of the Soviet president. In any case, Mr. Gorbachev's recent statement addressed toward the country's parliamentarians and his TV appearance contain similar appraisals.

Boris Yeltsin's statement views the results of the Ukrainian referendum in quite a different light. Specifically, it says that Russia recognizes the Ukraine's independence and, in effect, expresses readiness "to establish diplomatic relations between the Ukraine and Russia as soon as possible."

The impression is that at the moment Mr. Yeltsin plans to act as if no political union between the sovereign republics is in the offing. To judge by the Russian leader's statements, he does not see the possibility of such a union without the Ukraine, but the Ukraine is not showing any signs of wishing to have any political union with Moscow. Mr. Yeltsin gives to understand that he, in contrast to Mr. Gorbachev who had promised to persuade the Ukraine to join the union, is not going to "fight to the bitter end" to see the Ukraine as a member of the Union.

The Russian Foreign Ministry will act on Mr. Yeltsin's statement alone though it should be admitted that Mr. Churkin's statement is legally quite valid, said a Russian Foreign Ministry staffer to DP [Diplomatic Panorama]. He believes that "independence and separation must be legally formalized."

He probably means that the Ukraine must be formally recognized by the USSR State Council, as was the case with the Baltic states. It is not yet known when the State Council will meet and whether it will address the "Ukrainian question." The Russian leader Yeltsin, the Ukraine's Kravchuk and Belarus' [Belorussia] Shushkevich plan to meet in Minsk on December 6.

According to a senior staffer of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the meeting in the Belarus capital will cover the issue of "how to develop relations between the three Slav republics of the former Union, first of all, on a bilateral basis." According to the diplomat, such relations may be legally formalized in the future. He cited as an example, the Russian-Ukrainian relations.

Asked about the possibility of a "Slav confederation" with the participation of the Ukraine, Belarus and Russia in the future, the diplomat replied that "under the present-day conditions, it is very difficult to make any political predictions." "As for collaboration, first bilateral and then multilateral, it is quite possible," said he.

Gorbachev Expected at Young Leaders Congress

LD0912113891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0934 GMT 9 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Krolikov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Dec (TASS)—The objective of the congress of young political leaders, which opened in Moscow today, is to establish personal contacts between the young leaders of the Soviet Union, Europe, and America, and the formation of the culture of political dialogue by representatives of different parties, peoples, and religions.

More than 400 parliamentarians, state, and political figures representing practicallly all the republics of the former Union, including the Baltics, as well as a delegation from the Atlantic association of young political leaders, representatives of the Europarliament, and parliamentarians from East European countries are taking part in the forum. USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, as well as prominent state and public figures of the country, are expected to speak at the opening of the congress. It has been organized by the association of young political leaders of the USSR called "Forum-90," the Russian-American University, and the International Fund for the Cooperation of Young People.

Foreign Banks React To Delay in Debt Payment

LD0612193491 Moscow TASS in English 1505 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow December 6 TASS—The decision by the USSR Vneshekonombank to temporarily suspend (until 1993) the payment of the USSR's basic long- and mid-term debts to Western banks is creating turmoil in the world financial community.

Although the decision conforms to the spirit of the agreement signed on November 21 by the Group of Seven countries and eight Soviet republics, the decision came as a surprise to many, the French newspaper LE MONDE reported.

French commercial banks, including Bank National de Paris, Credit Lionnais and Societe General, rank second after German banks in the list of Soviet creditors.

Following instructions from the USSR Vneshekonombank, Germany's biggest private Deutsche Bank will coordinate the interests of all the Soviet Union's creditor banks, a spokesman for the bank board said in Duesseldorf.

According to the spokesman, the Deutsche Bank invited representatives of a number of international banks to take part in a meeting of the special committee entrusted with coordinating the activity of the banks which issued credits to the USSR.

The Deutsche Bank official believes the Soviet Union should be allowed to defer payment of debts. The USSR Vneshekonombank's decision to suspend the payment, he said, is of concern to 300 to 500 banks worldwide which extended credits to the Soviet Union.

A group of Japanese banks, including the Japanese Export/Import Bank, announced its agreement to defer Soviet foreign debt payments following a meeting in Moscow between representatives of the Group of Seven countries and the republics of the former Soviet Union, the ASAHI newspaper reported.

Japan's Finance Ministry expressed confidence on Thursday [5 December] that financial institutions of other G7 member-countries would agree to defer the Soviet debt payment as well.

At present, the total amount owed by the Soviet Union to Japanese private banks is about four billion U.S. dollars.

Republic Delegations Attending OIC Meeting

LD0812152591 Moscow TASS in English 1105 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar December 8 TASS—A closed-door preparatory meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is being held here. In an atmosphere of heated discussions, those present are trying to reach accord on the main draft documents being prepared for the OIC's sixth summit opening here on Monday [9 December].

Delegations of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are attending the preparatory meeting as observers. The Azerbaijani delegation is led by Fazil Maradaliyev, adviser to the republican president and deputy to the republican parliament, while the Kazakhstan delegation is led by Deputy Foreign Minister S. Batyrsha-Uly.

Among the Azerbaijani delegation is Pasha-Zaze, mufti of the Moslems of Transcaucasia and a deputy to the central and Azerbaijani parliaments.

OIC Secretary General Hamid Algabid had sent invitations to a number of other republics in the Soviet Union and to Moslems of Bashkortostan and Tatarstan to attend the Dakar summit.

During the discussion of a draft resolution on upholding and ensuring the rights of communities and Moslem minorities and drawing them into joint Islamic actions, the OIC secretary general informed the delegates of the results of his meetings with the ministers of foreign affairs of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan in New York during the 46th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The establishment of closer relations between the OIC and those republics had been discussed. Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan also manifested a desire to establish contacts with the OIC, Algabid said.

He recommended that OIC members establish cooperation with the Moslems of Central Asian republics "whose outstanding contribution to the glorification of the Islamic civilisation has been tried and tested by history."

Algabid pointed out with satisfaction that the process of political and economic reforms in the Soviet Union opens up favourable prospects for its numerous Moslem population.

It has become known here that the president of Azerbaijan endorsed an intention of his country's delegation to the forthcoming oil summit to apply for OIC membership.

United States & Canada

Gorbachev Warns Against 'Crumbling of Reforms'

LD0712131791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1218 GMT 7 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Dec (TASS)—"It is very important today not to allow the crumbling of reforms begun by Russia," USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, stated at a meeting with U.S. businessmen and education specialists which took place at the Kremlin today. If there is a crumbling of reforms, he said, people will take to the streets, and "this rightful indignation could be harnessed by reactionary forces." This reactionary part of society is waiting for reforms to fail, the president stressed.

Describing the situation in the country, Mikhail Gorbachev noted that a new level of mutual relations between the republics is now taking shape. He said that he is convinced that the Union treaty will be signed and stressed that this conviction is based on people's opinions. He then referred to public opinion polls which, according to him, show that most people favor the preservation of the Union. In this connection the president said he has great hopes of the meeting between the Belorussian, Russian, and Ukrainian leaders in Minsk.

Gorbachev Views Role of Union Presidency

LD0712135691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1238 GMT 7 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Nikishev]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Dec (TASS)—"I am rather inspired by the USSR president's approach to the issues of education and cadre training in the sphere of business," Karl Flemke, president of "Junior Achievement", a U.S. organization, stated. In his interview to a TASS correspondent after the meeting between USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and a group of U.S. businessmen and education specialists he voiced his conviction that president's involved interest and backing will promote the activities of "Junior Achievement" in the USSR.

The "Junior Achievement" organization deals with the issues of training in schools for entrepreneurs and businessmen. It has the backing up of numerous large U.S. companies. The organization establishes contacts with Soviet structures dealing with training of entrepreneurs.

Greeting the guests, Mikhail Gorbachev stressed that contacts aimed at the training of business specialists in the Soviet Union are well-timed. He spoke of the situation in the country and problems which arise on the path of reforms. Specific issues of cooperation between Soviet and U.S. education specialists were discussed.

Replying, in the course of the conversation, to his own rhetorical question as to which country he is the president of, Mikhail Gorbachev said: "The real situation in the country is not determined by a post but by one's influence on events which are taking place in the country". The present situation, according to him, "is typical of any transitional period".

Secretary Baker To Visit Moscow, Kiev, Minsk

LD0612172191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1453 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, 6 Dec (TASS)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrives in Moscow on 15 December on a working visit, the USSR Ministry of External Relations Information Directorate reported today. James Baker will be received for talks by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin. He will also meet with USSR External Relations Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and other officials. On 17 December, the secretary of state intends to visit Kiev, and Minsk on 18 December. Afterwards, James Baker will depart for Brussels.

Goals for Trip Cited

LD0812154991 Moscow TASS in English 1148 GMT 8 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Igor Barsukov]

[Text] Washington December 8 TASS—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said in an interview to THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper published today that during his trip to Moscow, Kiev, and Minsk on December 15-18 he intends to use American prestige and influence to help avert violence in the disintegration of the former Soviet Union.

"I will try to use whatever modest influence we have to see that situation proceed in a non-violent and a positive way, rather than in a violent and negative way," he emphasised.

"We are talking about helping the democrats, the reformers, the republics and the leadership of the republics," Baker emphasised.

He said his trip will focus on the problems of the emerging democracies in the republics, Ukrainian independence and nuclear non-proliferation issues.

Describing the role of the Soviet central government, Baker said that President Mikhail Gorbachev "is trying to manage this transformation, and I would argue that he is trying to manage it in a positive way."

The U.S. secretary of state said he would also be trying to assess the food situation and whether additional humanitarian aid, such as food and medicine, is needed.

Speaking about U.S. foreign policy as a whole, Baker declared in favour of the United States continuing to play an active role in the international arena.

"It's important for the United States to stay engaged, it is important that we not pull back, even though that is always the tendency in times of recession, and more so in the immediate aftermath of the collapse of communism and the security threat that has existed for the last 40 years," Baker said.

Baker's Concern About Events in Union Cited

LD0912105191 Moscow TASS in English 0955 GMT 9 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksey Berezhkov]

[Text] Washington December 9 TASS—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Sunday [8 December] expressed concern over the processes taking place in the Soviet Union.

Appearing in CBS's Face the Nation program, he said: "I think the Soviet Union as we have known it no longer exists. There will continue to be efforts to maintain some sort of a centre."

While there are prospects, there is also great danger associated with these transformations, Baker said. "And the important thing is that they proceed in a positive and peaceful fashion because we really do run the risk, in my view, at least, of seeing a situation created there not unlike what we have seen in Yugoslavia with nuclear weapons thrown in."

Baker said such a development "could lead to an extraordinarily dangerous situation for Europe and for the rest of the world, and indeed for the United States."

"Our position is that we want to do our best, and use whatever modest influence we have to see that situation proceed in a non- violent and a positive way," Baker said.

"And that's why we've laid out certain principles that we think should govern these transformations, even though we recognise that what the peoples of the Soviet Union want is a matter for them to determine," Baker said.

U.S. Consultations Focus on Bilateral Issues

LD0912140991 Moscow TASS in English 1242 GMT 9 Dec 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Andrey Surzhanskiy and Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—A package of matters concerning bilateral development of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States is the focus of attention at Soviet-U.S. consultations that began here today.

Matters subject to discussion are of specific nature and concern in particular conditions for the stay of the staff of diplomatic and consular missions in the Soviet Union and the United States respectively, Aleksey Obukhov, deputy foreign minister and leader of the Soviet delegation told TASS before the consultations began.

Obukhov believes that under present conditions, notwithstanding the complexities of the period the Soviet Union is living through, there are all possibilities to resolve the problems on a partnership basis.

The first item on the agenda is the question of "open land"—the concept connected with the cancellation of the practice of closing areas to visits.

KGB Removes Protection From U.S. Defector

PM0912111991 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Dec 91 First Edition p 1

[TASS report under "In the Mirror of the Press" rubric: "The Spy Who Lives on the Arbat"]

[Text] Officials of the Bush administration dealing with intelligence questions have reported that CIA defector Edward Lee Howard has lost the 24-hour protection with which the KGB was providing him in Moscow and is worried that he may be handed over to the U.S. authorities to be brought to trial, THE WASHINGTON POST writes.

A Western correspondent recently got into Howard's Moscow apartment. The defector tried to throw the reporter out. A fight broke out. There was not a single guard from the security services in the apartment, so no one came to Howard's aid...

David Wise, author of a book on Howard published in 1988, "The Spy Who Got Away" [Shpion, sumevshiy sbezhat], reports that this defector lives in an apartment provided for him by the KGB near the Arbat. It was in this apartment that the clash between Howard and the Western correspondent took place.

Northeast Asia

Japanese Envoy To Discuss Commonwealth

LD0912083391 Moscow TASS in English 0536 GMT 9 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo December 9 TASS—The government of Japan sends its special envoy Hirokazu Arai to Moscow on December 10 for an urgent gathering of information following the statement by Belarus [Belorussia], Russia and Ukraine on the cessation of the existence of the Soviet Union and the formation of a commonwealth of independent states, a spokesman at the Japanese Foreign Ministry told TASS today. After visiting Moscow, Arai is expected to go to Kiev.

On the strength of a report by the envoy in the rank of ambassador, Tokyo will determine its attitude towards the development of events in the former Soviet Union, the spokesman said.

At present the Japanese Government is avoiding clear-cut official comments on the situation following the statement by the leaders of the three Slavic states.

However, in any case, the development of events indicates that prospects for the conclusion of a new Union treaty become increasingly vague, sources in the ministry said.

In this connection Tokyo attaches special importance to the forthcoming meeting in Moscow today with the participation of President Mikhail Gorbachev and the leaders of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine, the Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa today reacted in an utterly cautious way to the statement by the leaders of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine on the cessation of the existence of the Soviet Union and the formation of a commonwealth of independent states.

"I feel that the development of the situation has not ended at that and that new developments can be expected," he stated in response to questions from reporters in the parliament building.

An official spokesman for the Japanese Government—chief Cabinet Minister Koichi Kato made it clear today that Tokyo intends to avoid definite commentaries so far and will only follow the development of the rapidly changing situation. "We are thoroughly watching the development of events," he told reporters.

At the same time apprehensions are being expressed in Japanese Government circles that too rapid changes in the situation may intensify protests in the Soviet Armed Forces against the elimination of the USSR.

Near East & South Asia

Gorbachev Praises Palestinian Peace Efforts

LD0612172891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1521 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, 6 Dec (TASS)—In connection with the International Day of Solidarity with the people of Palestine, USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev sent a greetings message to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The message highly evaluates the constructive approach of the Palestinian leadership to a settlement in the Near East in connection with the Madrid peace conference. The hope is expressed that Soviet-Palestinian cooperation in the matter of advancing the peace process in the Near East will be continued.

Foreign Ministry's Role in Mideast Questioned

PM0912114791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Dec 91 p 4

[Sergey Filatov "Viewpoint": "This Isn't Soccer, Guys"]

[Text] In soccer, if a team fails to turn up and so fails to play a scheduled fixture, it is regarded as having lost. A similar situation is now developing at the international Near East peace conference, whereby Israel has refused to attend the opening of its second stage in Washington 4 December. But political games are different from sport, in that Israel's no-show does not threaten it with defeat. Its Arab negotiating partners—Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians—have agreed to wait a few more days for their opposite number's delegation.

So we have another holdup in the nascent settlement process. While failing to meet the U.S. deadline, moreover, Israel is also trying to blame the Arabs, saying that they are responsible for refusing to hold direct talks with it in the Near East region. What is more, in giving 9 December as a possible date for resuming the Washington round of talks, Israel has provoked the Arabs to talk about postponing it until even later. This date marks the fourth anniversary of the start of tne "intifadah," the uprising by the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and Arab representatives will find it "awkward" not to show disrespect for the victims of the uprising.

Be that as it may, U.S. and Arab representatives came to the negotiating table 4 December and intend to wait for Israel "as long as it takes." So, we should not, in my view, dramatize the situation, but on the contrary rejoice that no one has yet slammed the door. Small comfort, of course, but better than nothing. Especially since everything indicates that Israel will get another U.S. "carrot" for taking part in the negotiating process. The Americans promise to submit to the vote at the UN General

Assembly 17 December the question of rescinding its resolution equating Zionism with racism.

At the same time the two cochairmen of the peace conference—the United States and the former USSR—are thinking about the third phase, which is to discuss problems of disarmament in the Near East, economic development, water resources, and refugees. Under the agreement reached by E. Shevardnadze and J. Baker, a foreign ministers' conference will meet in Moscow 28 and 29 January to prepare for it. Extensive participation is expected from all interested parties, including European and Asian states. The group of participants has deliberately not been decided yet. It coould include everyone who wants to facilitate a settlement.

In this connection there is the idea that the Americans are once again backing Moscow as our power collapses, boosting its prestige both in the world and in what was the Union. That is understandable—unlike the former Soviet republics it needs a predictable center in the interests of its own security. The fact that we seem to have lost our ability to influence the course of Near East affairs, in particular, at all is beginning to worry observers. At any rate, the following question was heard at the Washington briefing that announced the date of the Moscow meeting (why was it not announced in Moscow, incidentally?): How will the USSR Ministry of External Relations be able to organize this meeting when the independent republics are really seizing the department's prerogatives for themselves? I think that our diplomats should explain themselves. After all, it is by no means games of sport that are under way around their ministry.

Israeli-Arab Differences Over Talks Noted

PM0912115791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
5 Dec 91 Union Edition p 4

[A. Portanskiy report: "We Will Wait Until Monday, Say the Arabs As They Wait for the Israelis in Washington"]

[Text] "We will wait for them as long as it takes," Haydar 'Abdal-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation at the talks within the framework of the Near East peace conference, stated on his arrival in Washington with reference to the delayed arrival of the Israelis.

As is well known, the Americans suggested to the direct participants in the talks that they begin the second round of the peace conference on the Near East in the U.S. capital 4 December. This accorded with the intentions of the Arabs, who wanted to continue the negotiation process in the presence of one of the cochairmen in Washington, Moscow, or some other European capital. Israeli leaders wanted to switch the talks to the Near East and thus voiced dissatisfaction at what they saw as the hasty U.S. decision to hold the second stage of the Near East conference in Washington. Israel was additionally aggrieved with the Americans because of their proposal that Tel Aviv study the possibility of withdrawing from the Golan Heights, which have been occupied since 1967, given corresponding reciprocal moves from Syria. Until now Israel has considered that this question cannot be the subject of talks.

Furthermore, Tel Aviv insisted on holding talks with Syria, Lebanon, and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in different places and at different times so as to stress the bilateral character of the talks at this stage of the conference. The Arab viewpoint on this matter is virtually opposite. For example, Syria, afraid of separate accords between Israel and the Arab delegations, has tried to ensure that all the bilateral talks are held in the same place, which would emphasize their complementarity.

Having refused to change the time and geographical location of the talks for Israel, Washington has tried its best to vary the locations of the Arab delegations' meetings with the Israeli delegation. So three separate venues have been selected in the State Department building for the bilateral meetings between the Israelis and the Syrians, Lebanese, and Palestinian-Jordanian delegation respectively. In the latter instance there may be separate Israeli-Jordanian and Israeli-Palestinian talks.

In the words of State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler, premises for the official beginning of the talks will be opened 4 December. It is expected that at the appointed time the only representative of the Israeli side to arrive will be B. Netanyahu, press spokesman and a deputy minister in Shamir's cabinet, who will try to explain to the Americans the reasons for the absence of Israel's representatives.

According to informed sources, the Israelis will be sending three different delegations to Washington between 5 and 8 December in order to begin talks 9 December.

Meanwhile, it has been reported from Washington that the United States intends in the near future to try to get the well known UN resolution describing Zionism as a form of racism rescinded. The relevant instructions on this question have already been sent by James Baker to the U.S. delegation at the UN General Assembly. In principle this question is not connected with the theme of the Near East conference. Given Tel Aviv's dissatisfaction at the Americans' actions in organizing the second stage of the conference, however, the expected U.S. demarche at the United Nations looks like Washington's attempt to sweeten a bitter pill for the Israelis.

Egyptian Envoy Comments on Soviet Role, Talks

NC0812155391 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1930 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, 7 Dec (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador in the Soviet Union Ahmad Mahir has rebutted claims that the Soviet Union's international role is declining, especially in the Middle East which is linked to the Soviet Union by firm friendly relations.

Speaking to a MENA correspondent in Moscow, Ambassador Mahir emphasized that world detente and the end of the Cold War have removed U.S. objection to a Soviet Union role in the Middle East.

He does not approve of those who say that [words indistinct] was lifted because the Soviet Union was weak and that it was a mere cover for a unilateral U.S. effort. The truth, he added, proves that this is not right because, irrespective of any weakness it is now facing, the Soviet Union is a superpower and a major force in terms of its weapons and contacts with the region.

He said that Israel's keenness to resume relations with the Soviet Union proves that the Soviet Union is still a superpower and a major force in terms of its weapons and contacts with the region. Had it not been so important, Israel would not have insisted [on resuming the ties].

He said that the Soviet Union has been keen to link this step with the start of peace talks, noting that it was logical because the Soviet Union did not want to resume ties without a price, which, he said, was a step on the road to peace, hence active and effective Soviet participation.

He noted that this participation could be seen during behind-the- scenes contacts in Madrid and in the Soviet foreign minister's speech at the final session, clarifying his country's firm stand on settlement, in line with international laws, charters, and resolutions.

Ambassador Mahir told MENA that, having agreed to hold bilateral talks in Washington, it was logical for the foreign ministers of countries participating in the multilateral negotiations to meet in the capital of the other country calling for the conference—the Soviet Union—at the end of January to discuss general issues concerning many parties.

He noted that Egypt was firm [words indistinct] on the Soviet Union having a role in finding a Middle East solution along with European countries and the United Nations. He said: No matter the form in which these countries participate, no one can deny they are present and play an effective role.

Commenting on negotiations in Washington, Ambassador Mahir hoped that the Israeli side would show the same good intentions shown by Arab delegations in Madrid and now in Washington [word indistinct] to negotiate directly with Israel.

East Europe

Further on Hungarian Premier's Moscow Visit

Gorbachev Admits 1956 'Interference'

LD0612142591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1244 GMT 6 Dec 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Dec (TASS)—Talks between USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, who had arrived in Moscow earlier, ended in Moscow today with the signing a treaty on the foundations of good-neighborliness and cooperation between the USSR and Hungary.

The sides expressed high appreciation to the document signed. In Mikhail Gorbachev's words, the treaty has taken into account many changes that have taken place in both countries. The USSR president stated that an interference in Hungary's internal affairs was committed in 1956. The treaty, however, puts an end to the past and turns a new page in relations between our countries and peoples.

Jozsef Antall handed Mikhail Gorbachev a memorial medal for his activity as head of state.

Gorbachev, Antall Comment

LD0612193391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1659 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, 6 Dec (TASS)—According to an official report, talks were held in the Kremlin today between M.S. Gorbachev and Hungarian Prime Minister J. Antall. M.S. Gorbachev and J. Antall signed a treaty on the principles of goodneighborliness and cooperation. During the friendly conversation, M.S. Gorbachev set out his view of the complex and contradictory processes in our country, emphasizing in particular the vital need for a quick solution to the problem of what the country's new statehood should be. He said this was an indispensable condition and guarantee for economic reform and stability of democratic transformations. The independence of the republics gives them complete freedom to resolve this problem, which is also of enormous significance to the rest of the world, in a voluntary and authoritative manner, in their own national interests.

J. Antall noted that perestroyka in our country created an opportunity for fundamental transformation in Hungary and the development of new relations between our countries. A large place in the exchange of views was occupied by the topic of unity, interaction, and cooperation in contemporary systems of state relations, and the unacceptability and danger of separatist and egotistic principles in international politics.

In signing the new political treaty today, said M.S. Gorbachev, we are drawing a final line under a tragic page in our countries' history connected with the events of 1956. We unreservedly condemn the participation of Soviet forces in those events and consider that it was interference in Hungary's internal affairs. We have agreed to establish a joint commission the work of which will make it possible to clear up and to purge once and for all everything that has darkened our relations in the post-war period.

J. Antall stressed Hungary's sincere desire to live in complete and entirely unsullied trust and friendship with our country.

The president and premier noted that the new political treaty laid the legal basis for a qualitative transformation of relations. They said it determined the framework for long-term cooperation, taking into account the realities in both countries and in Europe. The treaty in no way limits the development of cooperation with our new sovereign states.

Gorbachev-Antall Meeting Viewed

LD0612142991 Budapest MTI in English 1323 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, December 6 (MTI)—In Moscow on Friday [6 December], Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev signed an inter-state agreement between the two countries, which sets new frameworks for bilateral relations. The signing ceremony followed talks which lasted 80 minutes instead of the planned 30.

MTI's correspondent was told that Gorbachev briefed Antall in detail about the causes of tension between the centre and the republics. He described the situation as extremely alarming, adding that it would seal the break-up of a thousand-year-old bond.

The Hungarian prime minister thanked Gorbachev for all he had done since taking office for the freedom of the eastern and central European peoples. Antall stressed the world historic significance of Moscow's contribution to the fall of the eastern European dictatorships. "The commemorative medal just handed to you is meant to signify that when the handcuffs are taken off, then we extend the hand of friendship," he said.

Antall also recalled the anxiety Hungarians felt for Gorbachev in the hard days of the August coup, and the holy mass held by Pope John Paul II at Budapest Heroes Square, attended by tens of thousands of people, where mention was made of the Soviet president. Finally, he said he was hopeful that the spirit of friendship embodied within the agreement just signed would remain unchanged.

In his reply, Gorbachev expressed agreement with Antall's assessment of the situation. He said the new document truly reflects the circumstances, and welcomed the changes Hungary has undergone over the past few years.

Touching on the 1956 revolution, Gorbachev said, "we cannot avoid talking about this today. I have to admit that the Soviet Union interfered in Hungary's internal affairs, and hope that the new agreement will open a new chapter in the history of relations." Gorbachev concluded by expressing his gratitude for the solidarity displayed in hard moments which he said will be necessary in the future as well.

After the signing, the Soviet president said he was convinced that the Union agreement would be signed for lack of any other way out. Concerning the Ukraine, he confirmed that the referendum vote for independence was not the same as withdrawal from the Union. At the same time, he emphasized that the new treaty should already be drafted in consideration of the recent events. "It is impossible to forget about the thousand-year-old common history of peoples," he said.

Antall Interviewed on Visit

LD0812135191 Moscow Radio Moscow in Hungarian 2100 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] As we have reported, Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall's official working visit will begin on 6 December. Sergey Shevikin, our correspondent in Budapest, today asked Jozsef Antall to speak to Soviet Radio. Unfortunately, our correspondent reported the statement by telephone; thus, for technical reasons, we are unable to broadcast it in its entirety. You will hear only excerpts from it.

At the beginning of his statement, Jozsef Antall points out that the sovereign states emerging on the territory of the former Soviet Union have always occupied and still occupy a significant place in Hungarian policy. The prime minister emphasized that in the past year and one-half, the Hungarian Government has made great efforts to develop relations with these republics, especially Russia and the Ukraine. Turning to the recent past, Jozsef Antall said:

[Begin Antall recording] In 1989, Soviet Ambassador Stukalin was present at the Hungarian Democratic Forum congress where, prior to the proclamation of the republic, that is, prior to 23 October 1989, I said that if the handcuffs are taken off of us, we will extend our right hand in friendship to the peoples of the Soviet Union and Russia.

This is a sign that if the shackles are removed from us, we will offer a hand to President Gorbachev and Mr. Yeltsin, as a sign of friendship. Regarding having said that if the shackles were removed we would offer the right hand of friendship, I think that the time has come to offer the right hand of friendship.

The fact that in the past year and one-half we could not manage to come to an agreement regarding the matter of a framework agreement obviously is a function of the uncertainty of the international situation and the internal changes going on in the Soviet Union, the power relations, and the questions of prestige. We live in multicentered, multipolar world, but there can be no doubt that within this, here in Hungary for us in the Carpathian Basin, in the valley of the Danube, our neighbors, the Soviet Union and sovereign states or federations on the territory of the Soviet Union, are important partners for the future.

Thus, I very sincerely wish that the Soviet Union and its republics pull through this very difficult winter and survive what is ahead. I hope that the masses will not come under the influence of demagogues, for this is a problem for the whole of our region. Demagogues should not be able to win and anarchy should not rear its head, for from anarchy, some sort of dictatorship always will be born. This should be avoided. This is the true for Hungary and the world. I always say that humanitarian aid, medicine, food, and consumer goods have to be given first to these countries in order for them to survive this difficult period and for starvation and such problems to avoided. [end recording]

Hungarian Foreign Minister Cited

LD0612222591 Budapest MTI in English 2034 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, December 6 (MTI)—The Soviet readiness to regard past Hungarian-Soviet ties as closed could be felt all along today's talks, Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky told journalists on board a plane travelling to Kiev.

"It is undoubtedly a political gesture on Moscow's part to admit the military intervention in Hungary in 1956 was a mistake," Jeszenszky said.

During talks with Russian leaders, prime importance was attached to the issue of sharing economic experience, particularly to Russia's introducing the first economic reform package by mid- December.

The issue of ethnic Hungarians living in the Sub-Carpathian region was also discussed, Jeszenszky reported, saying the Hungarian delegation reiterated the earlier stand that the main goal should be to make ethnic Hungarians satisfied with their own position.

The Federal Government and Ukrainian leadership have done their best to achieve that aim, Jeszenszky said.

Jeszenszky was accompanying Prime Minister Jozsef Antall on a visit to Russia and the Ukraine.

Commentary Examines Visit

LD0712035291 Moscow Radio Moscow in Hungarian 2100 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Boris Rodionov commentary]

[Text] Preparation in Moscow for the visit of Jozsef Antall has been going on at rapid pace. As I was told in the Ministry of External Relations, during the visit by Jozsef Antall, according to the plans, they will sign the new Soviet-Hungarian treaty and the Russian-Hungarian declaration.

The current visit of Jozsef Antall to Moscow takes place in completely new circumstances. According to all indications, the federal structures, almighty not so long time ago, as the former federal government also used to be, are nearing their end. The declaration of independence of the Ukraine, according to signs, gave killed attempts to preserve the borders of the renewed Union at the river banks of the Upper Tisza and Lower Danube.

This, consequently, means that that the union of sovereign states—if it is established without the Ukraine—will no longer be a direct neighbor of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Romania. The problem of the Magyar population of Sub-Carpathia—the population has just now voted to form a Magyar autonomous region with Beregovo as a chief town—will be a matter in which only Kiev and Budapest will have jurisdiction in the future.

However, in today's world, and even more in today's Europe we have to look at everything in its context and if Jozsef Antall, simultaneously with consolidation of the relations with Kiev, consolidates the position of Hungary in Moscow as well, this, undoubtedly, will be beneficial for the stability of the whole of eastern Europe.

The achievements of Hungarian diplomacy are received with due respect in Moscow. This diplomacy has seen the country become an associate member of the European Community. The Visegrad Three could coordinate its interests and it could even defend them in Brussels.

But life proves that having only a Western orientation is not enough. In eastern Europe the borders have started to crack all over. Romania has officially announced its claim to North Bukovina, which has been part of the Ukraine since 1940. Some of the Czechoslovak parties raise the issue of regaining possession of Ruthenia and, in case Slovakia secedes from the Czechoslovak state, the situation among the Magyar population in southern Slovakia could become strained. There are already signs of this worrying development of the situation. Better not to speak about the Yugoslav tragedy, among the victims of which there are a lot of Yugoslav Magyars as well.

In these circumstances, if it is made clear in Moscow now that the Hungarian state does not have territorial claims for Sub-Carpathia, it would be a convincing refutal of those accusations raised by some in the neighboring countries against Hungary. I have no doubt this would improve the situation of the Magyar national minorities in the neighboring countries. The welfare of these national minorities is so close to Jozsef Antall's heart.

It is necessary, without delay, to examine Hungary's economic relations, as well, with the former Soviet Union. What is at issue here is the 1.7 billion dollar Soviet debt which Moscow accumulated over long years, and a final settlement of the accounts related to the property left behind in Hungary by the Soviet Army.

According to the estimate of the Soviet trade mission in Budapest, the Hungarian partners pay promptly for the Soviet energy- carriers, and next year they would like to purchase 8 billion kilowatt-hours of electrical energy, 6 billion cubic meters of natural gas, and 4-5 tons of oil. However, the foreign trade bank is compelled to devote all of the revenues of the Soviet side to patch up the gaps which have emerged in the payments balance.

As a consequence, signed contracts, including the contract for Hungarian medicine deliveries to the tune of 400 million dollars, are not fulfilled. This is happening amid circumstances in which there essentially are no medicines in the Soviet pharmacies.

Perhaps some kind of compromise will be reached at the Soviet- Hungarian and Russian-Hungarian high-level talks in Moscow. Thus, it would be possible to carry out the extensive delivery of agricultural products and medicine within the frameworks of Western assistance to the Soviet Union.

What is encouraging, at least, is that businessmen are not becoming exasperated. This is evidenced by the Hungarian enterprises' current Days in Moscow. The changing Hungarian system is followed with intense attention in our country. The press reports in detail about the course of small- and large-scale privatization in Hungary. Many of us are consoled by the more attractive Hungarian version for resolving political and economic problems, which is more sparing when compared to the Polish shock therapy.

The visit of Jozsef Antall will provide an opportunity for the Soviet leadership, so we should get a reply, first-hand, to the questions which interest us. I do not doubt that the guest will have even more questions for the hosts.

Congress of People's Deputies

Emergency Congress Proposed To Restore Order

LD0912113991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1038 GMT 9 Dec 91

[By unidentified TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Dec (TASS)—A group of USSR people's deputies, including representatives of practically all the sovereign republics, has proposed an initiative to call a sixth extraordinary congress of USSR people's deputies, which will have to adopt resolutions on the restoration of constitutional order throughout the entire territory of the USSR.

This group has prepared an appeal to the USSR president and Supreme Soviet and is organizing a collection of signatures. The signatures of one-fifth of the Union deputies is needed for a congress to be called.

Supreme Soviet

Armed Forces Committee Reviews Status Quo

Conscription Law Changes

LD0712235391 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1300 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] The group of the Armed Forces Committee of the Soviet of the Union has started work. It will put the finishing touches to the draft changes to the law on universal conscription submitted by the USSR president. What is it planned to change in it? Thus, already from 1 January it is planned to make up the Army and Navy on the basis of a combination of call-up and contract and also to change the length of compulsory service. For the time being, it is intended to establish the following lengths of service: for soldiers and sergeants of the Soviet Army, shore units and air force of the Navy—18 months; for sailors and petty officers of ships and vessels, combat support shore units of the Navy, and marine units of the Border Troops—2 years; but for conscripts having higher education—1 year. According to preliminary calculations, already next year, approximately 10-20 percent of conscript posts will be taken up by men who have concluded a contract.

Construction Detachments Examined

LD0712234891 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1300 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] One more piece of information from the Armed Forces Committee of the Soviet of the Union. At one of its sessions, the matter of military construction detachments was examined. The committee believes that it is necessary to halt the call-up into these subunits which are working on building sites of the national economy and that prior to mid-1992 they should be disbanded and that their property should be handed over to the republics. At the same time, the committee supported a proposal made by the USSR Defense Ministry to reorganize the Defense Ministry's military construction detachments into engineering and technical units.

Budget 'Unrealistic'

LD0812235991 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Sergey Tsyplayev, member of the Committee for the Affairs of the Armed Forces of the Soviet of the Union of the country's Supreme Soviet, described as "unrealistic" the military budget of 100 billion rubles in 1991 prices which is being requested by the Ministry of Defense for next year. That is 10-12 percent of the gross national product, he said in an interview to a RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent, noting that the United States spends six percent on defense needs. On average, the countries of the world spend four percent of their gross national product. Sergey Tsyplayev declared that given that the Ukraine has refused to finance the Union Armed Forces and that Belorussia and the whole of Central Asia are insolvent, Russia alone will be incapable of footing the bill on its own; spending will have to be cut, and an army financed by Russia would be a Russian army.

Political & Social

Gorbachev Addresses New Problems, Own Position

More 'Complicated', 'Entangled'

LD0612232991 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2200 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] In an interview given to the RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev did not exclude the possibility that an agreement could be reached on a confederation with broad rights and true sovereignty of the states during the discussion of the draft Union treaty. At the same time, he, personally, would not like the Union treaty to be changed in its essence. The matter is that if something amorphous is created this would greatly impede the implementation of the reforms in the country. Answering a question on the possibility of a treaty being concluded between Belarus [Belorussia], Russia, and the Ukraine, Mikhail Gorbachev expressed the opinion that the creation of any kind of formations within the Union would make the process of its creation more complicated and entangled, not easier. Nevertheless, he admits the possibility of the conclusion of agreements on cooperation at a regional level which would be part of the general treaty process.

Grants Interview to Paris TV

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[Interview with USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev by Anne Sinclair and Moscow correspondent Ulysses

Gosset in Gorbachev's office in the Kremlin in Moscow, on 6 December; Gorbachev speaks in Russian with superimposed French translation; from the "Sept sur Sept" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Sinclair] Good evening. I invite you to an special edition of "Sept sur Sept" in Moscow this evening. This is 6 December and we are recording this program with the person whose fate interests the whole world more than ever because his fate is also that of his country. President Mikhail Gorbachev, good evening. Thank you for agreeing to allow TF-1 and "Sept sur Sept" to assess the situation this week, which let us say is perhaps the most serious week since last August's coup attempt. We are here in one of your offices in the Kremlin. I say we because I am here with Ulysses Gosset, whom you know well, and who is TF-1's permanent correspondent in Moscow.

[Gorbachev] We are old friends.

[Sinclair] You have just lived through a very difficult week. The Union was in a situation of cessation of payments and had to be rescued at the last second by Boris Yeltsin's Russia, and the independence of Ukraine is perceived by the whole world as a terrible blow to the Soviet Union, or what remains of it. Excuse me if I start rather bluntly, but in Paris many people were wondering whether we would not be the last in Western Europe to record an interview with Mikhail Gorbachev as president of the Soviet Union. If you agree we will shortly speak about what might force you to resign and about what might make you leave voluntarily. I would like to start with what might force you to leave against your will. You have yourself mentioned a possible new coup in coming days. Is this intuition or is it a piece of news?

[Gorbachev] You know, when this question is asked, and it has happened frequently, especially in recent days, I tell my interlocutors that it is not a matter of a military coup. No. What I want is to attract the politicians' attention to the fact that if today's leaders act indecisively and waste time concerning the solution to various problems, this risks worsening the situation, in particular the social tensions in society, which naturally will make the dissatisfaction already existing in our country even worse. It will be a reaction by the democratic majority in the country.

[Gosset] Mr. President, would it in fact, this time, be a non- communist coup? In August the hardline communists wanted to seize power. This time would it be a non-communist dictatorship with perhaps populist nationalists who would like to overthrow you?

[Gorbachev] I believe that what might happen is an intervention by the masses who are dissatisfied with a concrete situation. The masses want the country to be better managed, they want problems to be solved. It is only on these foundations that new political currents might appear. I believe that conservatives and reactionaries are also waiting this time to take advantage of this situation, to take advantage of the dissatisfaction of the people concerning the way we solve the problem. This is why I say problems have to be solved as quickly as possible and the first question, the number one question is the question of the state. If we cannot solve this we will not be able to do anything.

[Sinclair] A very brief question. After the coup attempt, you and Boris Yeltsin agreed on a pact: If one of you were prevented from exercising power, it would be the other who would exercise it. Is this pact still in effect?

[Gorbachev] It is not a question of a pact properly speaking. It is rather a question of mutual understanding between two politicians who carry great responsibility and who are conscious of the fact that their cooperation and interaction are the major premises for the success of the transformations under way.

[Sinclair] And it is still valid?

[Gorbachev] Absolutely, without any doubt.

I think that it is not only our choice. It is the choice dictated by the situation in the country and by the responsibility of our country before the world.

[Sinclair] I would like to give you the results of an opinion poll that we commissioned in France from the BVA Institute, which conducts an opinion poll for "Sept sur Sept" every week on the politician we have in front of us. Naturally, we asked the French people and not the Soviet people.

[Gorbachev] Do you believe in opinion polls?

[Sinclair] Yes, sufficiently. They are representative enough and in France they work well. Is that not so in your country?

[Gorbachev] I personally do not believe in them. Indeed, I do not believe in them . For long time I have known what sociology means, since the time when my wife was involved in it.

[Sinclair] In France, they work quite well. As you are going to see, the results are excellent for you. Asked about their opinion of Mikhail Gorbachev, the French, and I repeat the French, reply as follows: Very good or quite good— 75 percent; fairly bad or very bad, 17 percent; don't know— 8 percent. In France, and in the world, as you know, you enjoy an excellent reputation. Are you not bitter, disappointed, discouraged, annoyed, and angry to see that the Soviet people do not have the same opinion of you? Well-loved in our country, but rejected here, in the USSR.

[Gorbachev] It is a great luxury for a politician to plunge into such a state of mind, in a state of weakness, for example. You see the French look at the Union and Gorbachev's political activity from outside. They see that this activity has opened new possibilities of transformation in Europe and in the world, in my country and in our relations with the others—and it is true—whereas the people here do not see only that. Obviously, they see that the country's security has been reinforced. They also see that democratic processes are under way and that there is glasnost and freedom. But they also see real life and what is more they live the real life, mainly the social life. In this, there are numerous problems and many difficulties. It is a very painful transition that they are carrying on their shoulders and that affects their views, their criticisms, and their attitudes toward the president and the authorities. [passage omitted: video footage on recent events, primarily in Ukraine]

] [Anne Sinclair] Mr. President, the first question following these difficult pictures for you [referring to Ukraine referendum video report]: The Union is on the brink of explosion; finances, you are bankrupt, we will say more about that later; a poll by the INTERFAX press agency tells us that 72 percent of Soviet citizens consider that you are no longer ruling. So excuse my bluntness, but I ask you, of what are you still the president this evening?

[Gorbachev] First of all, what I saw in your video report gives me the right to act as presenter for a few seconds. The Soviet Union, you say, disintegrated like a house of cards. I believe that this kind of assessment is not serious. We have a situation which took shape over thousands of years and I do not believe that it will collapse like this. Indeed, there are very deep and very painful processes of change unfolding, but it is absolutely certain that one cannot accept disintegration. The disintegration process has already reached a limit and beyond it there is danger. What I would like to say is that this world is extremely complex. It has taken shape over thousands of years. This disintegration will be costly to our people—to the people of my country but also to the people of Europe as a whole. It will be costly to everyone, and what is happening in Yugoslavia, for instance, will look like a joke by comparison. Ukraine—what did it vote for? For independence, but are all sovereign states independent? The referendum in the Ukraine confirms the fact that the Ukraine is taking the path to sovereignty in a lasting way so as to maintain relations, cooperation relations with peoples with which it had been united for centuries.

[Gosset] When Russia decides for example that it is going to agree to finance the Union budget, is that a bit difficult to admit, a bit humiliating for a president of the Soviet Union? Are you sometimes a hurt president when you see that it is Boris Yeltsin who holds...

[Gorbachev,interrupting] I leave all these emotional aspects to the conscience of those who act in this fashion. I play my role as president; I have met the president of the Russian Federation and his government. We had a discussion, we made a joint proposal to the Supreme Soviet and in this way we were able to resolve the crisis. For four days the prime ministers have been holding consultations on all the questions relating to reform.

[Gosset] So you are in a very fighting mood and you are going to be there to the end?

[Gorbachev] Absolutely, absolutely. There is only one point on which I would not give way, and everyone knows that.

[Gosset] What is that?

[Gorbachev] I would not take part in the breakup of the Union; on the other hand I would take part in the reforms.

[Sinclair] You have always said that you would not take part in the breakup of the country. On 9 December, you will receive here the three Slav presidents in addition to the Kazakh president who, or rather some of them, at least the three Slavs, are meeting this weekend. You are going to receive them here. Two questions: What are you going to propose to them and second, how far can you go to accept the minimum state? What can you accept and what is the point beyond which you will not go?

[Gorbachev] Dear Anne, the meetings of the two assemblies of the USSR Supreme Soviet have just ended and the two assemblies have approved the draft Union treaty, i.e that of the union of sovereign states. I had this draft distributed to all the parliaments of the republics, accompanied by my own message. Now I am waiting for the opinion of the representatives of these republics. But today more people support the idea of preserving the Union than in last year's referendum. That is what counts for me. It is much more important than any other political statement, no matter how shattering it is, which claims that we are taking part in the funeral of the Union. It is the people who will decide whether the Union has to be buried or not. I am sure, and I feel it, and I will help my people find the right path.

On 9 December, we are going to discuss this problem. Today [6 December], tomorrow and 9 December. We are going to meet and Yeltsin will talk to the Russians, then to the representatives of Ukraine and Belorussia but, and I repeat it, I cannot imagine the Union without the Ukraine. In any case, I gave you an example earlier. The Ukrainian people have voted for independence, but they also voted in favor of the Union during the March referendum and the results of this referendum are still valid. To claim today that this referendum on independence was a referendum in favor of separation is tantamount to political trickery. The time will come when perhaps the people should express their opinion about this point. But today we are on the eve of very important events, while everybody is talking as if it is already settled. No, the journalists and the politicians are in too much hurry. There is too much agitation.

[Gosset] Mr. President, your Ukrainian counterpart Kravchuk has said that he would not sign the Union treaty in its present form. So, what could you tell him on 9 December to convince him to sign? And do you think that the 9 December meeting with the three Slav presidents and the Kazakh president will be extremely important? Will it perhaps decide the fate of your Union?

[Gorbachev] Kravchuk will do what the Ukrainian people will tell him to do. He will do what the people of the Ukraine will tell him. The people of the Ukraine will weigh the pros and cons. The journalists are saying that the Union has broken up. They are saying that President of the USSR Gorbachev is the president of an unknown state. I do not belong to that category of people. I belong to the category of those who are aware of their responsibilities and their role.

[Gosset] Do you think, Mr. President that this meeting on 9 December will be crucial for the fate of the Union? Do you think it is a decisive day, at that three-sided meeting?

[Gorbachev] It is important but it is not decisive. Other events will be decisive.

[Sinclair] You will not tell them: I will not go any further, these are my last concessions. Now it is up to you. Would you really put your resignation in the balance there, for you is that a threat which may weigh on them—to say to them, either you accept the Union as I conceive it, or I shall leave you alone?

[Gorbachev] You know that when I speak of resignation it is not only a question of power or a political game, no. What is in question is the destiny of the state and to stress the importance of what is currently being decided, I repeat that as far as I am concerned, I will not take part in a political process which will tend toward the destruction of the Union.

[Gosset] But today do you have the state of mind of a president who is really threatening to resign, who could depart in a few weeks' time. Is that possible?

[Gorbachev] I do not think that is a topical question. The most topical question is for me to use my own role, my position, and all my possibilities. I assure you that those possibilities are enormous, greater than those of any other politician in this country, and I am going to make use of them to maintain the Union and transform it.

[Sinclair] To be precise, I think that one has to be very precise for the French people on what you yourself mean by Union? Is it a confederal state with the powers of a state, those of defense, foreign policy, taxation, diplomatic representation abroad, or would it just be a quite vague, quite broad link between different republics for which you would only be a vague coordinator?

[Gorbachev] No, I understand you, I warn you that the reply will be very long, but I am going to reply to you since you ask me the question. It is very interesting for me to observe how the politicians of today—my partners, my friends, Mr. Mitterrand your president, Mr. Kohl the Chancellor of Germany—are actively conducting discussions at the moment on the eve of the famous meeting in the Netherlands on a new stage of the European Community's development. It is interesting to see how this is happening and I am trying to take advantage of their reasoning. What are they talking about? They say that it is necessary to consider questions of economic and financial cooperation and political union as a whole. You are in agreement that these three questions are part of a whole, and moreover Mr. Kohl stressed on 5 December that without political union it could not go on to a new stage. Here it is not only a matter of coordinating domestic policies but also foreign policies, hence of sovereign states with their own borders uniting and marching toward political, financial, economic union, states which speak of a single market, of eliminating all barriers, of introducing a common passport and citizenship.

[Sinclair] On a time-scale.

[Gorbachev] Yes. But it is not that which is important. What is important is the process which is taking place. I shall come back to that in a while. What I want to say quite simply is that everything has been mixed up together here. Seventy-five million Russians who live throughout the Union territory, that is outside their ethnic and national borders, 75 million citizens have crossed the country, have married the inhabitants of other cities, have established families, have worked, have gone from one region to another, and they are all citizens of one single country. I do not think one can reject that, with the exception of a small minority which cultivates speculation and ambitions.

Inside the country we do not have border limits; did you know that? I am sure you didn't. There are no state borders inside the country, why not ? Because as we developed, even during these last few years, it was decided for certain reasons to change the outlines of certain republics or to redraw the boundaries of this or that region, and no one saw any problem with that because it happened within a single country. It was considered as something very normal and something which was simply necessary for everyone. But today people are posing the question in a different way: People are beginning to speak of divisions.

[Sinclair] You mean that borders would be essential and yet that borders would mean conflicts; was it there that you spoke about risks of war?

[Gorbachev] It is you who is saying that, I have not said that word yet. But I would simply like to add something: Imagine that 12 million Russians living in the Ukraine suddenly found themselves living in a foreign state, in another country. How would you feel in their place? They would want to know what had happened and why. There are 75 million [such Russians]. When the virgin lands in Kazakhstan were developed, Russians came to that region and whole regions were given to them—more than half of the territory of Kazakhstan. Well, if Kazakhstan became an independent state tomorrow, they would find themselves in a foreign country far from their fatherland: Well, they would not accept that. They are for the Union which gives them the possibility of living in a single country.

As for the economy: If I could even begin to explain to you to what extent our economy is interconnected. On the last thing, defense: Defense is of interest to everyone, everyone—you and me.

It is a huge area where armed forces are stationed. They are stationed according to a certain concept, and this concept rests on the fact that it is a single country and that it will remain so. And in the framework of this concept, these troops were deployed in such a way that if one touches one unit the whole has to be reshaped. It is a defense area, a strategic area, you know what it is, these are not only missiles but also a system of control, observation, defense outposts deployed throughout the whole of the republics.

[Sinclair] And, Mr. President, the responsibility for pressing the button? In fact Roland Dumas in France today was saying: Who has the power over the nuclear weapons in the USSR? That is the big question. Who should have it? Is it you, and should the others present accept it?

[Gorbachev] I am the center: That is how it is and that is how it will remain.

[Gosset] And do you think that you can have an agreement on this point with the president of Russia, that of Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belorussia for a single nuclear command with you as the boss?

[Gorbachev] That is how it has been, that is how it is and it will remain because I am sure that the Union will be maintained.

[Gosset] A small detail now, but it might be significant: You were on holiday in Foros in Crimea when the coup took place and there was this dacha. Today Ukraine wants to take possession of this dacha. How will you react to that? Will you leave the presidential dacha to the Ukraine? Will it be confiscated?

[Gorbachev] I do not believe that the dacha will be transferred, for the simple reason that I am absolutely convinced that the Ukraine will remain in the Soviet Union.

[Gosset] You will keep the dacha?

[Gorbachev] I believe that some of our politicians, including Leonid Kravchuk, might face a new situation if they persist in trying to impose this concept, they risk losing the confidence of their supporters. Many Crimea residents—70 percent of them are Russians—have already warned that if the Ukraine is leaving the Union they would demand a referendum to see if the 1954 law is to be abrogated. Thus Crimea and the dacha will be on our territory and everything will end well.

[Sinclair] Mr. President, we are going to turn to economic measures. Boris Yeltsin has chosen to move quite rapidly, some say brutally, from communism to liberalism and obviously, moreover, to a total lifting of price controls in 10 days' time. This is shock treatment and the Russians are going to have to tighten their belts: in your opinion is he right or is he going too quickly, too far and too intensely?

[Gorbachev] It is completely just and necessary to act in a more resolute fashion, and from that standpoint I express total satisfaction with the initiative taken by the leaders of the Russian republic, its President, and its government. But from the outset, I insist on saying and stressing—and I hope it will be thus, I think there is agreement on this point—that things must take place in a certain sequence. Accompanying measures must be taken. If we lift price controls quite simply without taking preliminary measures, society will resist this. A series of measures are needed to protect the people during this crucial stage of the lifting of price controls, of transition, and hence decisions relating to compensation, to social protection, above all for those whose finances come out of the budget—retired people, invalids, soldiers, teachers, doctors, students—one has to reflect on all that. That order of things is quite essential.

[Gosset] When you see hungry grandmothers in the street and when you see people who are standing there with ration books and who have nothing to eat, do you feel personally responsible for this, and what concrete measures are going to insure that people in Moscow will have food this winter?

[Gorbachev] Not only is it my personal responsibility but it is also for me one of the greatest moral tests. Besides, yesterday, I devoted my time solely to Moscow's problems. There are regions where the situation is acute, serious, but in some areas it is particularly acute, such as Moscow, St. Petersburg, in the Urals, in Chelyabinsk, in several major industrial centers where the agricultural sectors are not very developed and where there is no real exchange between industrial and agricultural sectors. Moscow and the Muscovites have done virtually everything that they promised to do, in other words they delivered all the orders but they have not received much in return. Yesterday, I discussed this issue with the Muscovites, and they prepared a proposal which we are going to approve today with Yeltsin.

[Sinclair] You spoke a moment ago about your responsibility when in fact you see people who face daily difficulties, even difficulties in obtaining food—in your book you say: After the putsch I changed my outlook: I am still a socialist, but I am a democrat. The question is, how have you changed?

[Gorbachev] I think this country should be reformed and that the people of the country are an organic part of world civilization. But this should be effected on the basis of democratization, and it is that choice which will be introduced in all spheres of life. That choice has been and remains my own, and in that sense Gorbachev has not changed. But the putsch in particular helped me to draw some lessons, and I have already said this several times. For me it was a very harsh lesson: Doubtless my greatest mistake was to have allowed myself to get involved in the debates and in the political struggle between the various trends of the democrats. Nuances were being discussed while we had in front of us an enormous country which needed political responses. One had to unite all the democratic tendencies, one had to stand above these political passions and that is a fault, it is my fault: I think I could have done much more. And I understood that even before the putsch, because even before the putsch I had begun the Novo-Ogarevo process, the preparation for the new Union treaty. This shows once again that one has to reflect on many things.

[Gosset] You have changed: What is the most important thing you have given up? What was the hardest thing? And would you be ready to give up the idea of Lenin on Red Square and agree to the transfer of Lenin elsewhere?

[Gorbachev] I am bound to socialist ideas, and in Christianity I see this same quest for a better life. I see it in the quest by Campanella, More, and others. It is always a quest as long as people live and as long as they think about their life, their destiny, about their reason for being. They keep searching—if they stop searching they are no longer human beings. What are they looking for? An answer to the question on how to organize life on better lines, how to make life more just, fairer. I believe that it is what is most important in socialism: the quest for better and fairer ways of life. Yes, I am in favor of this quest and this is why I am an unwavering socialist and why I deeply respect Lenin.

I know the drama of this man: In one of his last remarks, he said that he completely changed his views about socialism, and these are words which expose that this great man realized what was happening under his leadership, things which he never wanted to happen at all and which he should not have been doing as a socialist.

[Sinclair] It is courageous, Mr. President, to say that at the moment: I mean that Lenin is no longer in fashion.

[Gorbachev] That depends for whom. I can cite to you many facts which would make Lenin even less popular, but that would not alter the fact that he was a very important figure, a great thinker and a great politician. Even his errors are lessons and are very important.

[Gosset] The transfer of the mausoleum, are you for or against it? In one word.

[Gorbachev] What I can tell you is that I am strongly opposed to any act of vandalism, and I am against any transfer of the burial place. This upsets me. When I see the memorial erected for Franco in Spain, I understand the Spaniards. It is history, their history. The same goes in our country. Lenin is part of our history.

[Sinclair] We cannot erase history, then.

[Gorbachev] No, and if you really want to know I share the view of those who think that in accordance with the Russian tradition, Lenin's body must be buried. If this was up to me, this is what I would do. But today, one must be very heedful of both the memory of this man and the people's attitude to this man. Society must draw its conclusions by itself, freely, calmly. Such issues cannot be decided by a show of hands. [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] These pictures of Yugoslavia: Dubrovnik shelled, Osijek besieged; when a short while ago you thought, when you appealed for responsibility in the face of what might happen in your own country, were you thinking of that risk: Is Yugoslavia not slightly the testing ground for all the dangers in the Soviet Union?

[Gorbachev] In a general way the lessons of the Yugoslav conflict demand very careful analysis: I think first of all that on the domestic level the most important lesson for us politicians is that one must never be behind in politics. I think that we too have got behind in reforming our Union, but what was accepted in a normal way two years ago or even a year ago is only accepted today in a painful way. So one must never be behind in politics.

Another thing which is no less important for domestic policy and also for foreign policy—I am still thinking of Yugoslavia here—is that one cannot rely on force. One cannot resolve anything with the help of force. Look at what all that has led to: Towns have been destroyed, the economy has been destroyed, billions of dollars have been lost. How many human lives have already been sacrificed, how many injured, how many ordeals, how many refugees? And to compensate for all these losses and to reestablish a normal state, colossal sums and suffering will be needed.

So, one can only bank on political dialogue, on a democratic position, on mutual understanding and on cooperation and on compromises. I have been convinced of this for a very long time and I have based my whole domestic and foreign policy on this.

The example of Yugoslavia shows that there are people who have hastened to side with the separatists, to come out in support of recognition, and who in this way have speeded up the process. There are at least three lessons to draw from the Yugoslav experience for all of us, including the representatives of various countries. I am not accusing anyone, but everyone has to learn from what has happened.

[Sinclair] Who are you thinking of exactly? When you say that, you are thinking of those who hasten too quickly to recognize a certain number of states?

[Gorbachev] I had predicted your question: I said I am not accusing anyone, I am warning everyone once again. One has to be responsible. Today there is a lot of unrest around the Ukraine: People are in a hurry, and now the process is starting to be pushed in Czechoslovakia and so on. This is not a policy, it is irresponsibility, a sort of competition: Someone has been recognized, so another hastens to recognize also, so as not to be behind. That is vanity, it is not a policy.

[Sinclair] Are you satisfied with the decision of the Twelve to wait and be cautious and not recognize the independence of the Ukraine immediately? Are you satisfied with the fact that although he immediately phoned President Kravchuk to congratulate him, President Bush is also waiting? Are you asking everybody to wait a bit?

[Gorbachev] I think that processes are underway within the Union, and these processes will lead to political results which will enable us to rebuild our rapports. In this respect, I highly appreciate the position of Mr. Mitterrand when he says that within the framework of the European Community, West Europe is going through changes and is gaining a second wind. This is one of the pillars of the Helsinki process, but it is equally important that the union of the sovereign states in the east becomes another pillar of the Helsinki process. It is the opinion of a great politician, which I very much appreciate, and this is why we discussed the issue in Mr. Mitterrand's house. This is serious politics; issues must be tackled in this manner and not with the approach of journalists who merely convey news on such or such event. Politics is not news reporting.

[Gosset] What can be done to halt the war: Would you be opposed to sending a buffer force, a European one for example, to Yugoslavia or would you be in agreement with such a decision?

[Gorbachev] Well, I am ready to say that our state, our country will take an active part in finding a solution within the framework of the United Nations, but we will also use all the possibilities we have, thanks to our close relations with all the Yugoslav republics, and we will do everything possible to halt the war and to avoid the country's turning into a Lebanon. This is not to mention the fact that it is also a warning for all of us: One must not accept a repetition of this kind of process, for example here in our own country, because I think that if it did occur we could not control such a situation here. One must act immediately so that through joint efforts we can organize the process in such a way that it is democratic and as responsible as possible.

[Sinclair] Mr. President, in Maastricht on 9 December Europe is going to try and progress further, to reach a new stage, at a time when you yourselves are in a process of a search, even of an exacerbation of nationalism: Europe, on the contrary, is trying to build itself up. Do you have the impression that you are getting further and further away from one another? What message would you like to send to the Europeans who are meeting on 9 December, and perhaps to France which, with Germany, is in a way a leader of this European construction?

[Gorbachev] I express satisfaction with the process underway, that of integration, and I think that the solidity of the European Community, its dynamics, is a positive factor which amplifies the whole Helsinki process with new contents. I consider that everything is connected and I think that it is one of the aspects of implementing the Helsinki process. The fact that new states are being admitted as associate members means that the Community is not a restricted one, is not limited. In addition, there are formal relations of cooperation between the commission and the republics, and these relations are developing. Furthermore, the fact that the Community is becoming more consolidated is positive for us, it is a constructive factor, and I wish the Maastricht meeting complete success.

[Sinclair] It is a good thing for you if the Community is becoming more consolidated?

[Gorbachev] Yes, I do not think this contradicts the Helsinki process: I am still thinking of Helsinki and the conversations I have had with the French president, the German chancellor, have convinced me that they are thinking of the whole of Europe, of cooperation, and I think that if these positive processes only take place in one part of Europe and not the other, that will not be enough. It has to take place everywhere: That is how we will be able to go further, and that is why on this I want to stress the constructive role and broad views of the French president: I speak of the European home, and he speaks of the confederation. I think it is an excellent path. The ideas of the French president have not always received support but life shows that he is a politician who sees very far, and what is going to happen in the Community will confirm the fact that Europe is making progress.

[Sinclair] Mr. President, we are reaching the end of this program. I would like to ask you—because when one reads your book and your wife's book, one sees how difficult the hours of the putsch were and how hard to live through, and how much you paid for it personally, and no doubt you continue to pay for it today—I would like to know whether the hours of this week, of these weeks, of these days at the moment are not, in a different way, as hard as those of the putsch?

[Gorbachev] They are different difficulties: I would not say that it is easy now, that the burdens have diminished or that the responsibility has diminished, no, but they are different difficulties. Here I see my role, I see my responsibility, I also see all the possibilities I have of participating, of influencing the processes whereas at the time of the putsch it was all or nothing, it was being or not being.

[Sinclair] But here, all the same, you feel that decisive days are being played out for you and for your country?

[Gorbachev] Yes, decisive days, decisive weeks, decisive months. You will note that I am not speaking about decisive years [laughter from interviewers], because there is a limit on the expression of grief: It can now only be counted in months.

[Sinclair] Thank you, Mr. President for receiving us—Ulysses Gosset and myself, TF-1, "Sept sur Sept," in this office at the Kremlin. [passage omitted]

[Gorbachev] It is I who thank you for this collaborative effort, and I should like to take advantage of this occasion to address Frenchmen and women and to tell them: I send you the greetings of our country and people, and I should like to thank you for your solidarity toward us. We appreciate the position of France and not only that of its president but of all its people. We appreciate this a great deal, because France and our country are partners of long standing, partners who are unique, and Soviet-French cooperation is a quite essential factor. Thank you.

[Sinclair] Thank you, Mr. President. [passage omitted]

'High Hopes' on Minsk Meeting

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[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "I pin high hopes on the meeting that is taking place in Minsk," said Mikhail Gorbachev at a Saturday [7 December] meeting with a group of well-known U.S. business people in the Kremlin. The Soviet president made his comments on the situation around the Union treaty and the prospects of its conclusion, primarily in the light of the Ukraine's position.

Mr. Gorbachev emphasized his commitment to the idea of a Union political treaty "I will take active efforts and reach out to the masses if necessary," said he. According to Mr. Gorbachev, most ex- Soviets support a political union in what was the Soviet Union. Today, emphasized the president, a new level of republican relations is taking shape. "This system is based on the demands of the economy, and they must find a political base."

Mr. Gorbachev said that lately he has often been asked: What country are you president of?" According to the Soviet leader, the situation depends on a person's influence on the main processes underway in the country, not on his official position. He dismissed reports in the press, including the Soviet media, that the Soviet president had been losing political influence.

"We are already close to the other bank of our difficult transition period," said Mr Gorbachev. "However, forces are emerging on this road that seek to reverse our progress."

Asked about the possibility of a reactionary coup in the former Soviet Union, the president said that the main task now is to prevent the collapse of the economic reforms spearheaded by Russia. Otherwise the people will take to the streets "full of righteous wrath", and the process will be controlled by the reactionaries who are waiting for the collapse of the reforms.

According to Mr. Gorbachev, economists who are currently in charge of the reform implementation are repeating the mistake of the Union Premier Nikolay Ryzhkov's administration in that the liberalisation of prices was announced in advance, which caused the disintegration of the domestic market. Mr. Gorbachev assigned priority to involving major Soviet enterprises—their staff do not want to stay out of the reform—into the market processes.

Gorbachev Meets With Republic Leaders

'Fourth Russian Revolution'

LD0912113691 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 9 Dec 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Today Yeltsin, Kravchuk, and Shushkevich are supposed to fly to Moscow to meet President Mikhail Gorbachev, together with Nazarbayev. However, only Nazarbayev has arrived in Moscow so far. [passage omitted]

During the next few hours we will discover whether the leaders of the three republics are going to fly to Moscow at all for a meeting with Gorbachev. We will find out whether these few days can be described as a fourth Russian revolution or not.

Three Presidents Meet

LD0912115291 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1100 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Here is a report that came half an hour ago from the Kremlin. Our special correspondent, Yuliy Semenov, reports that a meeting of three presidents has begun instead of the State Council meeting that was expected today. The three presidents are USSR President Gorbachev, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Before beginning the meeting, in reply to a question by journalists as to what sort of mood he was in, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin quipped: After the past two days, I was in a good mood. Right now, my mood is not very good.

Journalists took that as a sign of how complex the conversation that lies ahead will be. To all appearances, it is Yeltsin whom the participants in the meeting in Minsk and Brest have entrusted with putting forward and arguing the decision they adopted on the creation of a new commonwealth of states, making the Union structures superfluous.

Yeltsin To Represent Others

OW0912135491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "INTERFAX" has learned that a meeting between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin today [9 December] has already started at 12:00 [1000 GMT]. Nursultan Nazarbayev, the president of Kazakhstan, has arrived at the Kremlin and may participate at the meeting.

Discussion will be on the decision of the three Slavic states, Russia, Ukraine and Belorussia, to form a Commonwealth of Independent States, and thereby to end the existence of the USSR as a subject with international rights and as a geopolitical reality.

The President of Ukraine and the Chairman of the Belorussian parliament will not participate at the meeting, as was earlier believed, since they have entrusted the Russian President to meet with Gorbachev.

The Soviet State Council is planning to meet on Monday at 14:00 [1200 GMT on 16 December].

Joined by Mutalibov, Nabiyev

LD0912131291 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] We have just received a fresh report from the Kremlin, where, as has been reported, a meeting is under way among USSR President Gorbachev, Russian President Yeltsin, and Kazakh President Nazarbayev. Our special correspondent reports that the meeting is continuing.

Journalists awaiting the outcome are excitedly debating the latest news, which is that the three presidents have now been joined by Azerbaijani leader Mutalibov and Tajik leader Nabiyev. Journalists feel that the discussion is acquiring a more important nature, in terms not only of content but also the number of participants.

Gorbachev To Make Statement

LD0912145691 Moscow TASS in English 1436 GMT 9 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondents Nikolay Zheleznov and Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is expected to make a statement on his position towards the "Minsk agreement" of the three Slavic republics, presidential spokesman Andrey Grachev told journalists today after a meeting of Mikhail Gorbachev with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Kazakh leader Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Boris Yeltsin, who represented the three Slavic states at the meeting, Russia, Ukraine and Belorussia, spent 80 minutes running fielding questions from both the Soviet and Kazakh presidents regarding the "Minsk agreement," the spokesman said.

Andrey Grachev added that "a possibility of introducing the post of president of the commonwealth of sovereign states" was mentioned at the meeting.

Mikhail Gorbachev will continue consultations with other republican leaders in Moscow today. The Presidential Consultative Committee is expected to meet as well, Andrey Grachev said.

The Soviet president might make a public statement on his meeting with Boris Yeltsin and other republican leaders, the spokesman said.

The State Council will not meet today. The "Minsk agreement" will be forwarded to leaders of other republics and to the respective parliaments, which are discussing the draft of the union of sovereign states, Andrey Grachev explained.

Grachev on Results of Meeting

LD0912150691 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 9 Dec 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] We have just received the news that after the meeting among Gorbachev, Yeltsin, and Nazarbayev, presidential press secretary Andrey Grachev gave journalists a brief account of the results of the meeting:

[Begin Grachev recording] In connection with the fact that a meeting of the three leaders of the Slavic republics took place in Belorussia, their joint position was presented today by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. The meeting was quite long, about one hour and 20 minutes. There was a detailed discussion. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin expounded the joint position of the leaders of the three republics. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Nursultan Nazarbayev listened. Many questions were asked concerning the initiative of the three leaders and the proposed character of the commonwealth they mention in those documents.

The main point of the conversation is that it was agreed that this document, representing the way the leaders see the future development of events regarding the future of our state, will be sent as the position of these leaders to the leaders of the other republics and sovereign states; to the parliaments in which the draft Union treaty has been directed and where, according to the information we have, preparation and work on that draft has begun.

The USSR president is continuing consultations on this issue. In the course of today he will have supplementary meetings with state and public figures. It is expected that he will express his view about the issues raised in the documents of the leaders of the three Slav republics. He is expected to make a statement or give his assessment in some form. That is all. [end recording]

'Text' of Statement on Foreign Debt

LD0612180591 Moscow TASS in English 1647 GMT 6 Dec 91

["Full Text of the Statement on the USSR's Foreign Debt"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow December 6 TASS—The Information Service of the Interstate Economic Committee released here today a statement on the foreign debt of the USSR, saying:

"The purpose of this statement is to inform all creditors of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics about the difficult economic situation, which has arisen in the sovereign states, former subjects of the USSR, and about the steps that they are taking to overcome the crisis.

The process of transferring the governing functions and responsibility for the budget and monetary policy from the Union to the sovereign states is continuing for several days now. In assuming these new obligations, the governments of the sovereign states declare their adherence to the policy of economic development aimed to reduce the budget deficite, public spending and growth of money in circulation, to liberalize prices and exchange rates. Whenever necessary, this policy will be coordinated with the international monetary fund and other international organisations.

The sovereign states have taken steps to assess and settle the foreign debt problem, responsibility for which has now passed over to them.

All the sovereign states recognize the debt and the need to repay it. On October 28, 1991, eight sovereign states signed a memorandum on mutual understanding and agreed to accept solidary responsibility for the Soviet Union's foreign debt, contracted by that date.

On November 21, 1991, the G-7 countries agreed to put off the basic payments for the Soviet Union's official foreign debt, contracted before January 1st, 1991.

On December 4, 1991, the sovereign states signed an agreement on legal succession to the foreign state debt and assets of the USSR.

An Interstate Council has been set up to supervise the servicing of the debt and the use of assets. Henceforth, all decisions, relating to the foreign debt, will be made by the sovereign states through this Council.

The USSR Bank for Foreign Economic Relations (Vneshekonombank) will continue to discharge its functions as debt manager under the direction and control of the Interstate Council.

The Interstate Council has received information on the size of the foreign debt and needs a short period of time to assess the current state of affairs.

Temporary difficulties may occur in servicing the foreign debt before the Interstate Council completes its analysis of the situation. These difficulties are not expected to affect the payment of interest and payments for bonds, deposits, and sums on current accounts of foreign banks, representations and firms.

The USSR Bank for Foreign Economic Relations, jointly with financial consultants from the "Lazare Frere et Cie" and "S.G. Warburg Ltd", as well as "Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen and Hamilton" (note spelling is given in TASS transliteration from the Russian language) legal advisers, have contacted creditors involved in the official and other debts.

We are living through an exceptionally difficult and responsible period. The Interstate Council members are aware of the full responsibility for the financial obligations they have assumed. They hope our attempts to find a mutually acceptable solution in order to overcome our current financial difficulties, which, we are convinced, are of a temporary nature, will be understood.

We highly value the assistance and support given us by foreign governments, international financial organisations, the European Community and banks. Continued humanitarian and financial aid, as well as our creditors' understanding, will ensure the achievement of our ultimate goal: the establishement of a stable economic system, fully integrated into the world economy.

On behalf and by authorisation of the Sovereign States' Heads of Government Council:

Interstate Council for Supervision over the

Servicing of the Debt and the Use of Assets

Moscow, December 5, 1991+

Gorbachev Urges Food Agreement Implementation

Alerts of Moscow Food Shortage

LD0612145991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1401 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, 6 Dec (TASS)—It has been officially reported that on 6 December USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev sent telegrams to Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine; Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus; Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic; and Mircha Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova, in connection with the extremely complex situation which has developed in Moscow in providing the population with food.

The telegram stresses that the capital has a few days' supplies of meat, butter, sugar, and vegetable oil. There is a shortage of processing capabilities for bread and bakery products, and the demand for these products has grown sharply. In anticipation of a decisive step toward a market and the liberalization of prices, such a situation is fraught with mass protests against the democratic reforms which are being carried out, and a serious exacerbation of the sociopolitical situation.

The president of the USSR requests that everything possible be done to ensure the immediate dispatch of food products to Moscow based on the 1991-92 food agreements.

Prices, Delivery Accords Signed

OW0612210591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At Friday's [6 December] session of the Council of Republican Prime Ministers two of the eight basic agreements within the framework of the Economic Treaty were signed. The session was attended by special envoys of the republican heads of state. One agreement concerns prices and volumes of supplies and the other provides for measures to narrow differences between republican economic laws.

Three republics (Moldova, Azerbaijan and Turkmenia) have postponed a final decision on whether they will sign the treaty or not and are currently having consultations with the leaders of their republics. Two other republics, Belarus [Belorussia] and Kazakhstan, failed to put their signatures to the treaty because their delegates were absent from the session.

The prices of certain goods will not rise above a coordinated ceiling. This list includes cereals. At the previous session this drew objections from Russia. A compromise solution was achieved. Grain prices will be coordinated by the republics separately.

The council of prime ministers also asked the republican leaders to take concerted action in view of Russia's plans for reforms, including liberalization of prices.

Ivan Silayev voiced the hope that all basic agreements constituting the Economic Treaty will have been concluded by December 15 in order to let republican parliaments ratify the treaty delay.

More on Agreements

LD0612185991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1737 GMT 6 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Dec (TASS)—An agreement on prices and volume of goods to be delivered under mutual interstate accords and for common needs, forming part of the package of agreements attached to the Economic Community Treaty signed two months ago, was signed today by those taking part in the meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Economic Community Member-States which is taking place in Moscow. Plenipotentiary representatives of Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan also signed an agreement to harmonize legislation in the field of economic activity and examined the question of coordinating republics' actions in connection with the economic reforms being implemented in the RSFSR.

The maximum retail prices on a number of consumer goods and services including, in particular, bread, milk, baby food, sugar, salt, matches, vodka, petrol, passenger transport services, and communications, have been agreed on for 1992. This list has been adopted as a supplement to the agreement. Various forms of fuel, electric power, precious metals and stones, medical equipment and medicines, transportation, and communications services have been included in the list of products to be sold within the framework of bilateral and multilateral agreements and deliveries to satisfy basic requirements at prices which do not exceed the agreed maximum levels. This list also includes grain, provided that grain prices are regulated by agreement with the parties concerned. Interstate Economic Committee Chairman Ivan Silayev revealed that RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin initially spoke in favor of freeing prices which would, in his opinion, encourage the producers to sell grain. As a result of personal talks between Silayev and Yeltsin, a compromise was reached. The meeting participants decided to exclude supplies for the Army and the country's transport system from the category of basic community needs.

It is notable that the documents bear the signature of Georgia. A TASS correspondent was told by Murman Omanidze, first deputy prime minister of Georgia, that there is still a dispute in the republic's parliament over joining the Economic Community Treaty. But by signing some of the community documents, Georgia is taking upon itself certain obligations and under the treaty may acquire associate member status. A decision was also taken at today's meeting on the question of coordinating the actions of sovereign states which are members of the Economic Community in implementing the economic reform proposed by the RSFSR Government. The TASS correspondent learned that an accord was reached to request heads of sovereign states to take a decision regarding coordination of the actions of sovereign republics in implementing Russia's reforms.

Silayev on Talks

LD0612215691 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Dec 91

[From the "Vesti" Newscast]

[Text] [Correspondent A. Peslyak] Hope of significant movement forward in the general economic train is being engendered as a result of the meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of Economic Community Member-States which has just ended. Documents agreeing the prices for certain types of output and a list of such types, on cooperation in taxation, on the rapprochement of legislation regulating economic activity, on mutual obligations for pension provision were adopted by the joint efforts of experts from the delegations of the heads of governments. So, the beginning of much creative work is now underway.

Answering a question from the Vesti program on the results of the Council's work, Ivan Silayev [Interstate Economic Community chairman] said:

[Begin Silayev recording] This week could be called a kind of marathon because we have never before, throughout the period of cooperation between the sovereign states and heads of government and the the Interstate Economic Committee considered such a large number of proposals: on security, disamarment, the economic space, the economic union. We have been able to find solutions to the most complex of issues which have, in the final analysis, proved to be mutually acceptable. [end recording]

[Peslyak] It is proposed to discuss some of the remaining documents, on the customs and banking union, on financial and budgetary issues within the community, at a sitting of the Council of heads of Government in a week's time.

[Begin recording] [Silayev] So, we have an opportunity to reach agreement with the heads of government here. It will perhaps be confined to 10 or 12 basic agreements which will allow documents to be submitted to the supreme soviets for ratification as a package of documents belonging to the treaty. We will need another two weeks or so for this.

[Peslyak] This would be a good Christmas or New Year's present?

[Silayev] Yes, you could put it like that if you wish. But the point is that our citizens are not feeling its effect today. The shelves will not automatically fill up because of it. But these are necessary coordinated actions which will undoubtedly bring results, as early as, let us say, next year. [end recording]

Silayev News Conference

LD0712165991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1535 GMT 7 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Dec (TASS)—"Unification of the republics on economic grounds" will play a significant role in the formation of a new political union. This was announced today by Interstate Economic Committee Chairman Ivan Silayev at a news conference on the outcome of the four-day session of the Council of Heads of State of the Economic Community's Member-States. Silayev's opinion is that the council session achieved its main purpose, documents have been signed on apportioning the USSR's foreign debt among the republics and an Interstate Council for Supervision of Servicing of the Union Foreign Debt and Assets has been created.

Responding to a TASS question, the prime minister of the Economic Community stated that during the session the participants had approved Russia's moves to energetically implement reform. At the same time, he continued, "anxiety was expressed" over the timeframes for implementation, since "not all the republics today enjoy identical starting conditions." In addition, said Ivan Silayev, "the heads of government are worried by the fact that when prices are liberalized demand for cash will sharply increase," and the republics do not have sufficient cash resources. It was decided at the session to appeal to the Heads of the Sovereign States to coordinate the schedule for introducing free prices, since the premiers did not agree with the date proposed by Russia—December 16.

Regarding the possible introduction in the Ukraine of a national currency, Ivan Silayev stressed that this move "has to be linked to parallel removal of the mass of rubles" from its territory. Otherwise, "this will be a blow to Russia and to the other republics." He advocated developing a method of introducing national currencies so as not to contravene the Economic Community Treaty. Pointing out the current grave situation of the country and the "contradictory political processes" taking place, Ivan Silayev announced that all the members of the former Union need an economic community. He stressed that the now sovereign states could not manage without coordinated economic action.

Centralized Food Fund Established

OW0812215791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1922 GMT 8 Dec 91

[From the Soviet "Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Agreement on Food Supplies for 1992, signed this October by the 12 former Soviet republics (with the exclusion of the three Baltic states), calls for the establishment of an inter-republican centralized fund to supply the food requirements of the Army, the city of Moscow and "other general needs."

However, experts believe that since that the principles underlying the creation of such a fund run counter to a move toward a market economy, it is doubtful that it could be set up by relying on local food supplies.

The most realistic source of supplies, therefore, would be imported foodstuffs.

According to the terms of the agreement, contributions of food to the centralized fund should be made according to an "agreed price that takes into consideration the coefficient of price increases that occurred until October 1, 1991."

This means that when fixed prices for contributions of food by the republics are established, price rises in the cost of agricultural inputs during recent months will be taken into consideration.

It is therefore estimated that such prices will have to be set at a level that are at least 50% higher than the current government purchase price for agricultural commodities. However, since prices for both agricultural produce and for industrial goods are already out of control it will be impossible to keep them at the level agreed to by the republics.

Furthermore, the liberalization of prices which Russia has announced is bound to cause an even more dramatic rise in prices. Prices for energy will rise at least five-fold, which will naturally entail a steep rise in production costs in the agricultural sector.

In order to achieve minimal profitability, prices for wheat will have to reach almost 1,000 rubles per ton [as received] (a price 200 higher than the current government purchase price for wheat), milk per ton will cost 2,000 rubles (140% higher) and meat—11,000 rubles (180%).

Sales of agricultural produce to the inter-republican fund will thus automatically be unprofitable.

In this situation, Russia would have the most to lose, since it is to supply over 70% of the grain to the fund (3.8 mn [million] tons), about 50% of the milk and 40% of the meat.

The agreement on foodstuffs also calls for the most important types of material and technical resources for kolkhozes and sovkhozes to be supplied at prices agreed by the the republics.

However, this is hardly realistic in view of the price liberalization soon to be launched in Russia.

Deputy Claims Generals Preparing Overthrow

LD0712090191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Illegal public organizations created on the basis of Communist Party structures are active in a number of Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD], KGB, and Defense Ministry bodies, USSR People's Deputy Sergey Belozertsev has stated in an interview with the RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY. Illegal gatherings of generals from the MVD, the KGB, and the USSR Ministry of Defense are preparing to overthrow the existing constitutional system and the governments of the sovereign republics, Belozertsev said. Gatherings of generals in the Union MVD are even collecting contributions to finance that action. Sergey Belozertsev also claims that within the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces a plot is developing against the minister, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, whom they cannot stomach since he prevents the General Staff clans from dividing the jobs among themselves.

Gorbachev Addresses Question of Resignation

LD0712121591 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Boris Yeltsin is in Belorussia. Yesterday, he attended a ceremonial meeting devoted to the 50th anniversary of the defeat of the German fascist forces outside Moscow. As you know, it was held at the Palace of Congresses in the Kremlin. The appearance of the two presidents in the foyer, Boris Yeltsin first, and then Mikhail Gorbachev, provoked a commotion. Veterans formed an impregnable wall around the two leaders, causing disarray at various ends of the hall. There were congratulations, autographs, and photographs taken as a memento: where could one get through there with a question? Nevertheless, a correspondent for the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLTES newspaper was lucky.

Fifty years ago, 28 members of the Panfilov division saved Moscow, Russia and the whole country—is the present leadership of the republics, the states, capable of repeating their feat and saving the country from collapse? The journalist put his question to Yeltsin. To which he replied: They are capable of that feat, but whether it will yield a result immediately or a bit later, as happened during the war—that is the question.

A question was also put to Gorbachev. Answering a question about his possible resignation and in what conditions it might happen, Mikhail Gorbachev said: This is not a topical question. I have given only one instance in which I shall act in that way. I shall not participate in the collapse of the country. I have not exhausted my role and I believe that the people will not allow their present leaders to do that. Here I stand, and if it is necessary, I shall appeal to the people directly, Mikhail Gorbachev declared.

Zhirinovskiy Appeals to Military Personnel

OW0912144991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Liberal-Democratic party [LDP] of the USSR, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, in an appeal to all military personnel stated that December 8th was an "entirely monstrous betrayal and treason by forces of disintegration" (he did not say who those forces were). "The creation of a commonwealth of independent states from the capital in Minsk would liquidate the Treaty of 1922 on the formation of the USSR, depriving us of our Fatherland."

The only way out of the situation, according to the LDP leader, is by a new election for president, which should be demanded by the military personnel. Zhirinovskiy asked their help in electing him president, by voting for him. Zhirinovskiy also stated that the second he were elected president, he would issue order number one on the submission of the Armed Forces to him and their transferral to a state of heightened preparation.

In return for the support of the military, Zhirinovskiy is promising to take special care of them. In particular, he stated his intention to award all officers routine military promotions, and to give them separate apartments with privileged rent rates. Every officer who supports Zhirinovskiy can buy a Soviet-made car of any model, and also receive an orderly to "take care of everyday tasks." Zhirinovskiy promises also to ensure every officer for the sum of 200,000 rubles in case of injury or death, and to mark off property from one to three hectares for those retiring, and also to guarantee priority supplies of food products and industrial goods to the military.

The leader of the LDP if elected president of the USSR will guarantee a sharp drop in crime and permission for officers to carry weapons and "to use them in any situation."

In conclusion, Zhirinovsky called on the military "to create a new Russian people's army together."

TASS Carries Press Review for 7 Dec

LD0712093991 Moscow TASS in English 0759 GMT 7 Dec 91

["Soviet Press Review"—TASS Headline]

[Text] Moscow December 7 TASS—Soviet Union is observing the 50th anniversary of the decisive Moscow counter offensive which became a turning point in the Second World War and eventually led to victory over Germany. Saturday [7 December] newspapers publish reports that thousands of Muscovites came to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier near the Kremlin walls on Friday [6 December] to pay tribute to the defenders of the country. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin laid wreaths to the tomb to commemorate the anniversary.

PRAVDA publishes an interview with Soviet Union parliament lower chamber speaker Konstantin Lubenchenko who is quoted as saying "I am convinced it is necessary to preserve the Soviet Union both for internal and external reasons. Our foreign partners need a well- coordinated state to deal with just as much as we do".

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA carries an interview with former deputy Russian Prime Minister Yevgeniy Saburov who is convinced Yeltsin's economic reform is unable to lead the country out of crisis. Saburov says Yeltsin is not prepared to carry out all the necessary changes in industry. We must not doom ourselves to financial schemes but concentrate on the privatising and commercialising of production, Saburov says.

The Independent Trade Union Federation (ITUF) addresses Russian President Boris Yeltsin in a statement published by RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA on Saturday [7 December]. ITUF says trade unions are dismissed from the developing of economic reform strategy which is an abuse of social partnership principle, which is adopted in the world and which was proclaimed by Yeltsin when he came to power.

"We demand that the government meet Union leaders immediately to discuss all the emerging problems", the statement declares. Another newspaper, TRUD informs its readers the All-Union Confederation of Trade Associations supported the address and the position taken by the ITUF and recommended its bodies to render moral and organisational assistance to the ITUF.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA informs its readers the ITUF united its efforts with the Congress of Russian Businesses to oppose the government. The two parties have met to discuss their united actions.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries an article by Soviet parliament delegate Irena Andreyeva who is worried by the tendency of some sovereignty movements to turn to nationalism. "Nationalism is a drug. It destroys a nation", Andreyeva warns.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA analyst Aleksandr Golts writes that the Helsinki process is now challenged by disintegration of the Soviet Union. Latest events have showed that the existing system of the European security is not perfect and it cannot be based on the notion of an antagonistic Europe, Golts says.

Reports from Moldova, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Georgia and Estonia are published in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA under common title "History Teaches Us Nothing". The former Soviet republics are rewriting their history now. Georgian schoolchildren, for instance, "will only be taught their own, Georgian history", one of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writers suggests.

The taxation package, adopted by the Russian government, intends to balance the budget, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes. The success of the reform depends on how the government manages to curtail inflation, according to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA analyses economic relations within the Soviet Union.

Military

Lobov Removed Due to 'State of Health'

'Conspiracy' Reported

LD0712132891 Berlin ADN in German 1233 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow (ADN)—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev today removed from office Army General Vladimir Lobov, the chief of Soviet General Staff, the Moscow news agency INTERFAX has reported, quoting well-informed circles. The step was taken due to the General's "state of health", it was reported. Gorbachev has named as his successor General Samsonov, the former commander of the Leningrad Military District.

The decision is linked with the "grave developments in the restructuring of the Soviet Armed Forces and with the new functions of the General Staff". Only yesterday there were reports that Soviet generals were planning a new conspiracy. A member of the parliamentary committee investigating last August's coup, deputy Sergey Belozertsev, claimed that a conspiracy is being planned in the Soviet General Staff against Defense Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov.

Decision 'Unexpected'

OW0712154491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpts] IF [INTERFAX] learned from a well-informed source that the December 7 USSR presidential decree relieves General of the Army Vladimir Lobov of his responsibilities as the Soviet Armed Forces' Chief of General Staff "for reasons of health", replacing him with General Samsonov, former commander of the Leningrad military district. [passage omitted]

A spokesman of the USSR Defense Ministry press-centre told IF that the decision to replace Mr. Lobov was "unexpected."

It has become known from unofficial military sources that General Lobov had resigned over developments in the Ukraine and some other republics that have called into question continued existence of a united military in the USSR.

Samsonov Qualifications Assessed

LD0912000491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] By USSR presidential decree, Colonel General Viktor Samsonov has been appointed the new chief of the General Staff of the USSR Ministry of Defense. Prior to this, he was chief of staff for the Leningrad Military District; as is known, he was appointed to that post last year by Dmitriy Yazov. Denis Gurinskiy reports on the subsequent conduct of General Samsonov in the city on the Neva.

[Begin Gurinskiy recording] During his time as district commander, he showed himself to be a man in favor of unified regional and Union structures for the USSR Armed Forces under control from the Union center. Within the district, a highly- centralized system of subordination for military subunits was set up. Samsonov was frequently in conflict with Admiral (Chernov), commander of the submarine fleet at Leningrad naval base, who preferred more autonomy from the center. Regarding civilian authorities, General Samsonov moved to prevent them from influencing things within the military district, by systematically rejecting initiatives from the city soviet and the local intelligentsia to assume a degree of control over the district and accelerate reform within it.

Meanwhile, he called on local organizations of military and worker veterans and of Army journalists to strengthen the military potential of the district by promoting modernization of the scientific and technical equipment of district units and working on the patriotic education of soldiers and officers. Samsonov also favored expanding the functions of military-political bodies in the district, and wanted them to campaign more effectively for retention of a unified Soviet Union.

On 19 August, Samsonov led the Leningrad commission on the state of emergency and announced the introduction of a state of emergency and curfew in the region. It was he, under the influence of Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak, who refused to send the troops into Leningrad and halted an armored column of the Pskov division, after it had been armed on his orders. The Leningrad city soviet commission investigating the attempted coup d'etat in the town accused Samsonov in September of intending to overthrow the region's democratically-elected authorities and called upon the city procuracy to open criminal proceedings against him. However, Mayor Sobchak protested this announcement by the commission and pointed to, I quote, "the courage of Samsonov in saving the city from the troops." According to reliable information, St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak recently asked Mikhail Gorbachev to somehow recognize the merit of Samsonov who, in Sobchak's opinion, is "a general devoted to the people." And Gorbachev, somehow, has recognized this merit. Denis Gurinskiy, Radio Russia, St. Petersburg. [end recording]

Gromov Appointed Ground Forces First Deputy

LD0712012491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1945 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, 6 Dec (TASS)—Boris Gromov, the 49 year old colonel-general, has been appointed first deputy commander in chief of ground troops, VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA newspaper reports.

Nuclear Weapons Talks With Ukraine Denied

Transfer of Warheads Alleged

LD0612141291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1258 GMT 6 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Dec (TASS)—The General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces has no information whatsoever on talks between the Center and the Ukrainian leadership on nuclear arms deployed on its territory. This is what Colonel General Bronislav Omelichev, first deputy chief of the General Staff, told the TASS correspondent. "I do not think there is a need at all to discuss issues of this kind," he added. The query was addressed to the General Staff following a report in the NEW YORK TIMES of 5 December. It said that USSR central authorities allegedly "started talks with the Ukraine on the issue of transferring control of 4,000 nuclear warheads to that independent state."

Shaposhnikov on Ukraine

OW0712003891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0004 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The USSR Defense Minister Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov has said that the Ukraine still recognizes common defense space and aerospace borders, as well as the unity of nuclear forces. He believes that more talks on these issues are still possible. The Defense Minister has dismissed reports that President Kravchuk, of the

Ukraine, has asked the USSR Defense Ministry for a say in the control of nuclear weapons.

Claim That Ship Sailed to Avoid Seizure Denied

LD0712045891 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1910 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Excerpts] The Soviet and foreign media have had a lively discussion in the past few days about the departure from the Black Sea of a super-modern Soviet aircraft-carrying cruiser. On Monday [2 December] the cruiser passed through the straits of the Bosporus and Dardanelles, controlled by Turkey, into the Mediterranean. Just where is the cruiser sailing and what is its task? Some details from the Soviet press compiled by a Radio Moscow commentator, Sergey Vorobyev.

[Vorobyev] The cruiser, Admiral Kuznetsov, was originally known as Leonid Brezhnev. The naval flag was hoisted over it on the 20th of last January. The cruiser was built in the Ukrainian city of Nikolayev. At first foreign radio stations reported about it. They said that the Soviet Navy had added a super-modern flagship to its fleet, at which, for the first time in the Soviet record of building aircraft carriers, planes can land horizontally and take off from the deck with the help of a jump board. The cruiser can carry 50 or so helicopter gunships, modern SU-27 and MiG-29 fighter planes of the naval models that are supersonic, carry modern weapons and have long range. The cruiser Admiral Kuznetsov has a displacement of 55,000 tons and is more than 300 meters long. The crew numbers about 1,500 men, including over 200 officers.

According to the national daily IZVESTIYA, the Soviet Defense Ministry makes no secret of the course of the ship. The cruiser is sailing to join the Northern Fleet with which it is to be based. [passage omitted]

One more important point the press has reported: Claims have appeared abroad that the ship has been taken away from the Black Sea so the Ukraine could not have it following its proclamation of independence and secession from the USSR. A Defense Ministry spokesman has said the Ukraine didn't and doesn't lay claims to such ships. [passage omitted]

Ministry Prepared To Examine Moldovan Charges

LD0712182391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1647 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, 7 Dec (TASS)—The Odessa military okrug troops are at permanent deployment garrisoning locations. Not a single weapon has been handed over to anyone by the military subdivisions, a TASS correspondent has been told in the USSR Defense Ministry press center. The ministry stated this in connection with an appeal by the leadership of the Moldovan republic to parliamentarians and governments of the countries of the world and the UN Security Council in which it has accused the 14th Army of the Odessa military okrug of allegedly starting open aggression against the republic by occupying a number of settlements on the eve of presidential elections. The USSR Defense Ministry is prepared to examine all issues which may arise on the basis of mutual respect, mutual understanding, and responsibility. Only thus can constructive decisions be found that satisfy both the interests of servicemen of the USSR Armed Forces and of the people of sovereign Moldova.

Gorbachev Sanctions Ministry Property Sales

OW0712002291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0004 GMT 7 Dec 91

Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An "IF" [INTERFAX] correspondent has learned that December 5th Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev gave an order to provide the Defense Ministry with the opportunity to sell its disengaged military-technical property. The order states that until an agreement is reached on settling issues of ownership for Defense Ministry property, the Soviet Defense Ministry may sell its disengaged military-technical property, including engineering sites and other structures. The receipts from such sales will be used to improve the social and living conditions of those in the service and their families.

Yeltsin Pay Raise Decree Needs Gorbachev Assent

PM0612171191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Dec 91 Union Edition p 1

Report by IZVESTIYA military correspondent V. Litovkin: "Yeltsin Raises Military Wages, But Payment Will Only Begin Following Gorbachev's Signature. Russia Carries Out Financial Inspection of Soviet Army"]

[Text] RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree 3 December 1991 "On Raising Servicemen's Pay and Salaries and Wage Rates of Personnel Working at USSR Defense Ministry Enterprises and Organizations." This is Decree No. 257.

Under the decree, Defense Ministry servicemen's pay, with consideration for the previous increase in this remuneration effected by the country's president 9 September 1991, is to be increased by 90 percent. Wage rates and official salaries of civilian personnel in troop units, Defense Ministry establishments, VUZ's [higher educational establishments], enterprises, and organizations, and military management organs is increased by the same amount.

Admittedly, this raise does not apply to the hard-currency payments made to those serving and working abroad. On the other hand, as of the new year ceilings on percentage supplements for trops serving in remote areas and areas with severe climatic conditions are to be abolished.

How have the Army and Navy reacted to the Russian presidential decree? With mixed feelings. At one extreme there is gratitude to Yeltsin and the Russian Government for their concern for the homeland's armed defenders and for understanding the acuteness of their problems, while at the other there is amazement: It was, after all, promised that wages would be doubled, since that was the case for Ministry of Internal Affairs officers and warrant officers, and servicemen still cannot obtain this money. According to the country's constitution, the Army is legally under the jurisdiction of the USSR president, and the Russian presidential decree can only enter into force if it is signed by M. Gorbachev, and then the USSR defense minister will announce it to the troops.

The editorial office knows from unofficial sources that there is a draft decree in the USSR president's office on substantially increasing the pay of Soviet Army and Navy servicemen, workers, and employees in the conditions of the market economy. Needless to say, it also takes Russia's position on this question into consideration, and it is to be signed, so it is said, any day.

Baltic Affairs

Leaders Sign Paris Charter; Embassies Opened

LD0612180191 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Today, leaders of the three Baltic states signed the Paris Charter in the Elysee Palace's Napoleon III Hall in the presence of French President Francois Mitterand. This document was endorsed last year during the summit meeting of the Helsinki process countries and outlines the political landmarks of the new Europe. After the official signing ceremony, the French president holsted a reception for the heads of the Baltic states.

The Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian Embassies were solemnly opened this morning in Paris. Keys of the temporary embassy buildings were handed over to the foreign ministers of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Estonia

Foreign Ministry Protests Gorbachev Accusations

OW0712174591 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1415 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A note of protest addressed by the Estonian Foreign Ministry to the USSR Ministry of Foreign Relations says that the charges of infringement of the rights of ethnic minorities which Mikhail Gorbachev brought against the Baltic republics over national TV on December 3 are groundless. Estonia demands facts in support of those charges.

The authors cite Mr. Gorbachev as saying that Russians, Ukrainians and other ethnic groups in Estonia had appealed for help to Russia. "The President did not rule out that 'help' of his kind might arrive, which can be interpreted as a threat to Estonia's national security," the note says.

The document points out that "the presence of Soviet troops on Estonian territory and the territories of other Baltic states poses a serious threat to the Baltics and Europe as a whole, since these troops may go out of control."

Cabinet Concerned Over Soviet Troops Presence

OW0712192291 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1700 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Coordinating Bureau preparing negotiations between Estonia and the USSR has made public a statement by the Estonian Cabinet expressing concern over the continued presence of Soviet troops in the republic and non-observance by the Soviet side of some of Estonia's agreements with the USSR Defense Ministry. The Estonian Government warns that in this unstable situation some of the military units stationed in the Baltics may go out of Moscow's control.

The authors express regret that Soviet-Estonian talks are still indefinitely delayed. Unless they open at an early date, Estonia may be compelled to appeal to the international public to explain how dangerous the situation is, the statement says. "Hopefully, the USSR will do its best for the talks to get under way soon," the Estonian Cabinet's statement says.

Draft Constitution Scraps 1920 Border Provision

OW0712165891 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1415 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Constitutional Assembly of Estonia, which is drafting a new republican constitution, decided Friday that the provision which defines Estonia's borders as ensuing from the peace treaty with Russia signed in Tartu in 1920 should be scrapped.

After Estonia was incorporated into the USSR, part of the territory it had owned as an independent state between 1920 and 1940 is known to have been adjoined to the Pskov and Leningrad regions of the Russian Federation.

Latvia

Leaders View Moscow Talks, Economic Agreement

OW0612183291 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1710 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Anatolijs Gorbunovs, head of the Latvian Supreme Council, and State Minister Janis Dinevics have reported on the results of their visit to Moscow, where Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and Mr. Gorbunovs signed in Moscow Thursday an agreement on the principles of Russo-Latvian economic cooperation in 1992, and issued a joint communique.

The two Latvian officials said the agreement provided for maintaining trade exchanges with Russia at world prices next year and defined the volume and choice of mutual supplies.

Under the agreement the goods exchanged would be tax exempt as envisaged by the most-favored-nation status offered by the two countries to each other. Should either country's balance of trade be negative, it would be compensated for either by hard currency or else by goods supplied to the other side.

Mr. Gorbunovs noted that Latvia's trade balance should be expected to be negative for sometime. Mr. Dinevics added that this was a result of Russia's unwillingness to include in the balance the expenses connected with the presence of Soviet troops on Latvian territory.

Latvia's Premier Ivars Godmanis, who also took part in the Moscow talks, has left the Soviet capital for Transcaucasia to finalize the agreements for next year's trade with Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Trade, Economic Pact With Armenia Signed

OW0712193591 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1700 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Saturday saw the signing of a Latvian-Armenian agreement on the basic principles of trade and economic cooperation in 1992-95. Under it, the two republics are to maintain direct contacts at factory level, impose no transit transportation taxes on each other's goods, etc. There is a protocol on trade exchanges in 1992.

Armenia's Premier Gagik Arutyunyan told BF [BALTFAX] that his republic would like to study Latvia's experience in various spheres, primarily in reforming the banking system and agriculture. He said the two delegations had also discussed the opening of permanent republican missions in Yerevan and Riga.

Armenia is known to have officially recognized Latvian independence. Latvia, according to Mr. Arutyunyan, is expected to recognize Armenia's independence one of these days.

Ivars Godmanis signed similar agreements with Georgia Friday. On Saturday night he leaves Yerevan for Baku to conclude economic treaties with Azerbaijan.

Lithuania

Prime Minister Warns of Increase in Terrorism

LD0812175391 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 0200 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Speaking on television on 7 December, Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius said that the current period is proving to be more difficult for Lithuania than before. He suggested proceeding further along the path of restructuring, keeping calm, and avoiding quarrels over small items. The prime minister said that news reaching Lithuania from Moscow, where the current sittuation because of the food supply shortages is rather threatening, gives cause for concern. According to Gediminas Vagnorius, the interest in abstract politics in Russia is usurping economic reform. The prime minister noted that in the near future the treaty on economic cooperation for the coming year could be signed with Russia. The Lithuanian prime minister said that the government will find ways to help Moscow, where, according to President Mikhail Gorbachev, the current food supplies in Moscow will last only two days.

Gediminas Vagnorius urged public organizations and the Lithuanian people to show consideration to Russia and her people. We should also be concerned about our internal situation, the Lithuanian prime minister maintained. According to the prime minister, someone is attempting to organize terrorism in Lithuania. Gediminas Vagnorius stated: Last night someone broke into the transformer station, and the power supply for Santariskes, where a hospital is located, was disconnected. Three patients in intensive care died because there was no power in the hospital for an hour. The Lithuanian prime minister is convinced that the culprits for this act of terrorism will be punished. Gediminas Vagnorius maintained that this should compel all of us to realize finally that the state has not yet been restored, that it is not time for petty political arrogance, and that everyone must take part in restoring the state.

State Security Department To Be Liquidated

OW0712170291 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1415 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian Government has ruled to liquidate the republic's State Security Department. It instructed Vice-Premier Zigmas Vaisvila, who used to head the SSD, to work out suggestions concerning the formation of a new security agency.

Reports of Press Nationalization 'Not True'

LD0712213691 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Announcement by the government press bureau: The Soviet Union's mass information media are disseminating unverified information that the press is being nationalized in Lithuania. It is stated among other things that journalists have been informed about this by official government representatives. Such reports are not true. At present, the goverment, fulfilling the law of the Republic of Lithuania on taking over the former Lithuanian Communist Party, the CPSU, and communist property, is carrying out the privatization of the former communist and Komsomol property. Former communist and Komsomol publications are being reorganized into closed joint stock companies which distribute shares to the workers of the editorial offices. The Lithuanian Government press bureau has been instructed to state that these inventions about the alleged nationalization of the newspapers by force discredit the republic's government, harm the international prestige of the republic, and hinder foreign economic policy.

Interrepublic Affairs

Yeltsin Previews Minsk Meeting on Commonwealth

Discusses Meeting With Kravchuk, Fokin

LD0712013891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Excerpt] On 7 December Russian President Boris Yeltsin is to leave for Minsk, where a meeting of the leaders of Russia, the Ukraine, and Belorussia, the three Slavic republics, is to be held. Following the signing in the Kremlin of the Russian-Hungarian documents, he talked to the journalists about the aims of that summit meeting.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] There are some problems relating to the signing of the Union treaty, and consultations are currently in progress. Yesterday I had a one-to-one meeting with President Gorbachev. Tomorrow I am flying out to Belorussia, Minsk. A delegation headed by Kravchuk, president of the Ukraine, and Fokin, chairman of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers, will also be there. We, the leaders of three delegations, will discuss the situation that has currently arisen in connection with the Ukraine declaring independence. We shall discuss that problem, since I cannot imagine a union if the Ukraine is not there. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Says No Treaty Without Ukraine

OW0612203091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "We cannot sign the Union treaty and break with the Ukraine, with whom we are connected by thousands of years of history " Russian President Boris Yeltsin told an "IF" [INTERFAX] correspondent on the eve of his meeting in Minsk with the leaders of Belorussia and the Ukraine. Yeltsin noted that 11 million Russians lived in the Ukraine, "who we simply cannot drop." The Russian President answered "IF's" [INTERFAX] questions in the Kremlin Palace Congress Hall before the beginning of a concert in honor of the 50th anniversary of the defeat of the Nazi troops outside Moscow.

Commenting on a remark made by one of the veterans of the war, that the change in the country to a market economy could be compared to the heroic military march, the Russian president supported this comparison, saying hovever, that "it was still unknown, whether or not this heroic march would bring such an immediate and effective result." Yeltsin said that today, December 6th, he had signed an order that starting December 1st, pensions would be increased by 50% and not by 25%, as an earlier decree had ordered

Yeltsin Informs Bush on 3 Republics' Accord

LD0812210491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2030 GMT 8 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleysey Berezhkov]

[Text] Washington, 8 December (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin telephoned U.S. President George Bush late today and informed him of the leaders of the Republic of Belarus [Belorussia], the Russian Federation, and the Ukraine signing the agreement on the creation of the community of independent states. Bill Harlow, official White House spokesman, informed the TASS correspondent of this.

The conversation lasted approximately 30 minutes, Harlow said. "Yeltsin reported that he will inform Bush at greater length later of the details of the agreement," the White House spokesman noted. "We are waiting for these details."

Yeltsin Returns; Journalists Barred From Airport

LD0912090391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0835 GMT 9 Dec 91

[By unidentified TASS correspondent]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 9 Dec (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived back in Moscow last night, a TASS correspondent has learned. However, no official statement on the Russian leader's return to the capital was issued.

A TASS correspondent, who during the night telephoned a representative of the airport where the Russian leader's plane was due to land, was told that "the president's aircraft landed at 0049." However, the representative refused to disclose who was on the aircraft or to say whether the leaders of Belorussia and Ukraine arrived with Boris Yeltsin. Journalists were not admitted to the airport. [passage omitted]

Kozyrev, Burbulis Brief Press on Commonwealth

LD0912125591 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1130 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] A news conference was held by Gennadiy Burbulis, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic state secretary, and Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs of the RSFSR, at the press center of the Russian Federation Government in Moscow today.

They acquainted Soviet and foreign journalists with the agreement on the creation of a commonwealth of independent states. It was stated that the USSR as a subject of international law and a geopolitical reality has ceased to exist.

Gennadiy Burbulis stressed that the agreement does not concern the obligations of Belorussia, Ukraine, and

Russia with regard to third states, and is open for accession to all states of the former USSR and other states.

Andrey Kozyrev drew journalists' attention to Chapter 12 of the agreement, which speaks of the international obligations of the commonwealth and the guarantees on this commonwealth implementing the treaties and agreements of the former USSR.

It was stressed that henceforth the activities of bodies of the former USSR will cease on the territory of commonwealth member states.

Burbulis on Creation of Commonwealth

OW0912144891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The three states have announced that which has already become a reality in the past year, said the first deputy chairman of the Russian Government, Gennadiy Burbulis, at a press conference in Moscow on Monday about the meetings of the leaders of Belorussia, Russia and Ukraine in Brest from December 7-8. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev was also at the press conference.

According to Burbulis, many different questions were discussed at Brest, including the possibility of signing the Union treaty in its latest form.

"It was clear to all three sides that the present agreement is the only variant to save that which still can be saved and to avoid entire disintegration, economic and political," the first vice-premier said.

Burbulis noted that Ukraine and Belorussia confirmed their responsibility to deliver all supplies, including additional ones, so that the capital region could avoid extreme difficulties with the food supply.

In response to a question about Union organs, Burbulis stated "we will correct our participation in the Interrepublican Economic Committee and the Supreme Soviet of the Union."

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev announced that on Sunday the three leaders, Yeltsin, Shushkevich and Kravchuk talked with George Bush by telephone. "The increasingly difficult situation was explained to the U.S. President," Kozyrev said, and in his opinion, "the reaction of the American President was very sensible, constructive, reflecting his understanding of the increasingly difficult reality here."

The minister emphasized also that the agreement on the creation of a commonwealth of independent states is open. "Nobody may alienate anyone else, any republic may join the commonwealth. In such a way, rejecting former variants of a creation of the Union, Russia, Ukraine and Belorussia do not by any means end a Union in any such form," Kozyrev thinks.

Burbulis: USSR Does Not Exist

LD0912174691 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Excerpts] At the press center of the Russian Government, Gennadiy Burbulis and Andrey Kozyrev commented today on the meeting between the leaders of Belorussia, the Ukraine, and Russia and on the documents signed as a result of the talks in Minsk. It can be asserted that the USSR does not exist, either juridically or de facto. It has disintegrated. A commonwealth of independent states is being created in its place. Our correspondent Vyacheslav Osipov reports the details of this news conference.

[Osipov] [passage omitted] Another event on Belorussian soil will enter history. The Russian Social Democratic Party was born there. Later on, the Brest Peace was signed there. Now there is an agreement on the creation of a new type of state. Gennadiy Burbulis, first deputy head of the Russian Government, said in this connection:

[Begin Burbulis recording] In seeking an answer to the question of the organizational, political, and legal forms in which the interests of the majority of the populations of our states would be paramount, at this stage the ides of a community of independent states arose. The USSR, in the precise juridical sense which is reinforced by this treaty, does not exist. Generalizing all the historical, practical, economic, and cultural links the parties are setting up a new legal reality in the form of a commonwealth of independent states, a commonwealth which is open, first and foremost, for states situated on the territory of the former union to join, as well as for any other states which share the basic tenets of all the participating states and of the representatives and experts.

The points of departure were identical, although at the same time we discussed the possibility of amendments to the logic that is traditional today. We discussed the possibility of signing the Union treaty, in its most recent Novo-Ogarevo version; we discussed the prospects for the Ukraine as a state after 1 December; we discussed the most immediate and most remote consequences of this decision. After all this, there was a unanimous conviction that we should take the only possible step that would allow us to move out of this impasse. [end recording]

[Osipov] [passage omitted] Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian minister of foreign affairs, reported that the leaders of the three republics had had telephone conversations with U.S. President George Bush. Touching on the issue of the fate of the Union structures which are still functioning, Andrey Kozyrev directed journalists to Article 14, which states that the activities of the bodies of the former USSR on the territory of the commonwealth member states are to cease. The location of the commonwealth's coordinating bodies is to be the city of Minsk.

The Russian foreign minister stated that the leaders of the union departments have sufficient civil courage and will hand over their functions and business to the newly formed structures in a civilized fashion. This also concerns Mikhail Gorbachev, the president of the former USSR, Andrey Kozyrev said.

Kozyrev on 'Atomic Button' Control

OW0912143391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1400 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said at a press conference in Moscow in conjunction with the decision of Belorussia, Russia and Ukraine to create a commonwealth of independent states, that in the near future "there should be a guarantee of the civilized transfer of authority with regard to control over the 'nuclear button.'" According to Kozyrev, legal succession in this issue will be preserved. "With regard to the mechanism for transferring control over the atomic button, and who will now have such control," Kozyrev noted, "these questions will now be decided through negotiations." He ruled out the possibility of any dictate "from one side or another."

Kozyrev Expects Others To Join

LD0912170791 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1610 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] As has been reported, in Minsk the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus have signed an agreement on the formation of a community of independent states. Here is how the Foreign Minister of Russia, Andrey Kozyrev, commented on this event on Monday.

[Begin Kozyrev recording in Russian, fading into English translation] (?Sure there have been myths) that without a totalitarian structure and without supercentralized structures created by dictatorship as a result of the Bolshevik takeover, this one sixth of the mainland will simply get wild, will attack each other, and will create catastrophic instability for the rest of the world. It has again been proven that the nations living here are as good as those in Western Europe, and that they are solving their problems in a civilized and democratic way. A civilized community of independent states is emerging to replace the USSR, a totalitarian state, irresponsible in many ways, which has been a threat to peace in the world for 45 years. This community, with a responsible approach to international issues, rests above all on the norms of human rights and on the norms of the European conference. And, last but not least, we can heave a sigh of relief that the world will get civilized partners doing business among themselves, and ready to cooperate with the rest of the world constructively. [end recording]

Andrey Kozyrev emphasized that the community member states intend to pursue a course toward strengthening world peace and security. The community guarantees compliance with the international commitments stemming from the international treaties and agreements of the former USSR. It ensures a single control over nuclear weapons and its nonproliferation. As for the formal principles the community is founded on and what should be done with the rest of the former union republics, everything is very simple, as Andrey Kozyrev explained:

We believe, Andrey Kozyrev said, that the democratic community of independent states is based on two ideas: First, it is for the nations themselves to decide their destiny, so it is necessary to decide their will; and second, it is necessary to put up with reality. We are linked together in deed, Andrey Kozyrev remarked, and why should one imagine that democratic power is senseless power that does not understand what a single economic space is, that there is responsibility for nuclear arms, and so on? The community is open and we expect many if not all union republics, now independent states, to join in rather quickly.

Spokesman Says Options Open on Economy

LD0812214191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2105 GMT 8 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Dec (TASS)—"I am not against the creation of the community of independent states," as is in the agreement signed by the leaders of three independent states—Russia, the Ukraine, and Belarus [Belorussia], as Vladimir Mashits, the Russian Government's authorized spokesman, said today to TASS. He said that so far it is difficult to tell whether the old USSR finally died at the meeting of the presidents of the three Slav republics, or not. "I do not know how events will develop further, since there is still Kazakhstan, and the other republics....I would not rush into any assessments," said Vladimir Mashits. "A very dynamic political process is now under way, therefore it is difficult to say what the fact of the community's establishment means," he stated. Touching upon the issue of forming a single economic zone on the territory of the former Union, he did not exclude that the treaty on an economic community, signed so far by 10 of the republics, might not enter into force, since it requires ratification by the parliaments of the former Soviet republics. "All options are open," said the spokesman. Vladimir Mashits confirmed that in economics the Russian policy remains to strive to retain and develop economic relations with all republics of the former USSR.

Kozyrev: Commonwealth Open to East Europe

LD0912130391 Hamburg DPA in German 1150 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Hamburg (DPA)—The Soviet head of state Mikhail Gorbachev will have to hand over his remaining powers to the new "commonwealth of independent states," says the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey

Kozyrev. This was the subject of the talks between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Gorbachev, which started this morning, Kozyrev said in an interview with BILD newspaper (10 December edition). He assumed that the new federation would be joined also by Armenia and some other republics. It was also open to Eastern European states like Bulgaria or Romania.

Official Says USSR Bodies No Longer Exist

LD0912164691 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] The Ministry of External Relations no longer exists just as the Interstate Economic Committee no longer exists. This was stated in Moscow by Pavel Voshchanov, a representative of the Russian president. He cited the agreement between the three republics signed in Brest which declared the Union's abolition as a subject of international law.

According to the agreement, the activities of the USSR structures on the territories of the states which signed the Brest agreement cease from the moment of its signing. Voshchanov proposed that Belorussia, Ukraine, and Russia, which created the commonwealth, will very soon be able to conclude a separate agreement on the army.

Foreign Ministry No Longer Exists

OW0912181391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Union Foreign Ministry does not exist any longer, nor does the Interrepublic Economic Committee and other Union structures, said Pavel Voshchanov, press-secretary of Russia's president, in Moscow on Monday, referring to the Brest areement of the three Slav republics that had proclaimed the abolition of the Soviet Union. Under the agreement, Soviet structures on the territory of the signatory countries go out of business since the moment the agreement was signed. Details will be discussed at a Yeltsin-Gorbachev meetin, said Mr. Voshchanov.

According to Mr. Voshchanov, Belarussia, Ukraine and Russia, that established the community, may soon sign "a separate agreement concerning the military." The Brest agreement provides for "a common military strategic space under single command, including common control of nuclear weapons." Mr. Voshchanov reminded in this connection that two weeks ago Russia and Ukraine had signed an agreement under which Ukraine cannot have an army bigger than the Russian National Guard. The community members will jointly finance the upkeep of the army, said Mr. Voshchanov.

Asked about differences between the Community and Gorbachev's concept of a confederation, Mr. Voshchanov said, "Gorbachev's program could not overcome contradictions between the Union republics. The Union 'did not come about' because states having different political systems have emerged on the Soviet territory during the perestroika period, in particular after the August putsch. They pursue different approaches to human rights, democracy, economic liberalisation and foreign trade. Gorbachev believed that he had a charisma that could clear away all obtacles. This did not come to pass, however."

For all their differences, Russia, Ukraine and Belarusssia are "countries with similar political systems, views regarding their prospects and attitude to human rights and democracy." They found it easier to breach the existing differences. The Community's functions will be localized, said Mr. Voshchanov.

The community agreement is open to other countries to sign, and Mr. Voshchanov believes that who will join it will become known within weeks or even days. Accordin to him, "Kyrgyzstan will determine its position soon, and Kazakhstan's line will become clearer." Mr. Voshchanov personally believes that Armenia is the closest to the community of all Caucasus republics.

Asked about the possibility of a new putsch, this time by the military industrial complex, Mr. Voshchanov ruled out its danger.

He sidestepped the question of whether the Russian, Belorussian and Ukrainian leaders had discussed the destiny of the Soviet president.

Supreme Soviet

Law on 28 Percent Value Added Tax Adopted

LD0612183591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1625 GMT 6 Dec 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Dec (TASS)—Beginning 16 December, a 28 percent tax will be levied from each Russian citizen on the purchase of goods. Consumers will pay almost a third in excess of the value of output in accordance with the law on valued added tax adopted by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet today. This law represents "a form of withdrawal—into the budget—of part of the increase in value created during the process of the production of goods, work, and services," the law states. The 28 percent rate of taxation, set at the request of the RSFSR president and of the Russian Government, will, according to Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar, permit the Russian budget to be supplemented to the tune of 950 billion rubles and will permit the social programs elaborated by the Russian parliament to be implemented. A lower rate of taxation would place the health, scientific, and educational establishments—existing at the expense of the budget—under the threat of closure. These are the reckonings of the RSFSR Government which has taken upon itself the responsibility for the results of the introduction of the value added tax. As Yegor Gaydar stated, members of the government acknowledge that the taxation rate adopted is dictated "by the very severe inflationary crisis and the current extraordinary situation." The vice premier noted that the government would not increase the tax on enterprises' profits for there to be incentives for producers. The Russian parliament is continuing work on a collection of taxation laws, the adoption of which will finally open up the path for the liberalization of prices and the implementation of economic reform.

Statement on New Tax

LD0712173191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1450 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, 7 Dec (TASS)—The RSFSR Supreme Soviet press center has distributed the following information today:

Public opinion has been aroused for the second day by what was broadcast yesterday on radio and television news programs and by the report with the sensational title "'Presidential' Tax in Russia Will Increase From 5 to 28 Percent," which has been published in a number of central newspapers. These reports are about the RSFSR Government's decision to introduce a new tax, which has been sanctioned by the Russian parliament. This information, to put it mildly, does not correspond to reality because the figures, which have been arbitrarily taken out of context (one would not wish to think that this has been done intentionally), do not reflect the real essence of the adopted law. In fact, the essence is that the value added tax (and in no way the "presidential") replaces and is equal to the sum of the two previous ones—on turnover and on sales—the latter had been given the name "presidential" by the people.

Not everyone knows that the former tax on turnover was included in the retail price in hidden form and sometimes comprised up to 400-500 percent over the wholesale price for various types of goods, which led to an artificial distortion in the setting of prices. The new tax, which sets a single rate for all producers of goods and groups of goods, will not only permit the main obstacles for the introduction of market relations to be removed and the increase in prices to be regulated, but will also permit the budgetary system to be brought into balance to guarantee that the social programs adopted by the Supreme Soviet are implemented, first and foremost those designed to increase the living standards of needy Russians.

Naturally, interpretations of the essence of the new taxation reform require balanced and authoritative commentaries and not disinformation capable of provoking only an intensification of the social tension.

Spokesman Comments on Tax

OW0712234191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1459 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliamentary spokesmen made comments on Saturday on the introduction of an added-value tax of 28 beginning on December 16.

Deputy Chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Vladimir Shumeyko said, specifically, that with the introduction of the new tax, the presidential 5

sales tax and the turnover tax are scrapped. According to him, the added-value tax is unified, simple to apply and is meant to curb inflation and the runaway growth of prices.

Comments by the Russian Supreme Soviet press-centre indicate that the turnover tax that was factored into retail prices reached 400% to 500% of wholesale prices for certain commodities, which led to dislocations in price-formation. The value-added tax will be the same for all producers and all commodities; it will help not only remove the main obstacles to market relations but also balance the budget system to boost the social programs that have been enacted by the Russian parliament.

Legislature Continues Work on Taxation Laws

LD0712221291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1443 GMT 7 Dec 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow, Dec 7 (TASS)—The Russian parliament today continued work on a package of taxation laws which, when adopted, will once and for all open the way for prices to be liberalized and economic reform to be implemented. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet passed a Law "On Taxation of Individuals' Incomes" which, among other things, provides for tax on an annual income of up to 42,000 rubles to amount to 12 percent. Annual incomes exceeding 42,000 rubles will be taxed according to a special rising scale. This law enters into force on 1 January 1992, and the RSFSR Supreme Soviet ruled that as of that date, the USSR Law "On Taxation of the Incomes of Soviet and Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons" will lapse on RSFSR territory. The Russian parliament also passed a Law "On Registration Fees from Individual Entrepreneurs." These fees will be levied for registration (re-registration) of the type of entrepreneurial (commercial) activities in question. The maximum rates, which may not exceed the RSFSR minimum monthly wage, are to be determined by soviets of people's deputies (except in towns in rural locations). The fees themselves will be determined by local administration bodies; they will go to the budget of the city, rural rayon, or autonomous district in which the relevant business activities take place. Persons engaged in entrepreneurial (commercial) activities are to pay tax on incomes derived from them as stipulated by Russian Federation laws on personal taxation.

On 9 December, the Russian parliament plans to continue its debates on taxation laws.

Law on Local Administration Bodies Passed

LD0712195291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1357 GMT 5 Dec 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Dec (TASS)—Having examined for a second time today the RSFSR law "On certain issues of the legal regulation of the activities of kray and oblast soviets of people's deputies," returned to it by the Russian president, the Russian parliament adopted it with ammendments. It took into account the president's amendment in accordance with which soviets of people's deputies can agree on the candidatures of administration heads both at their sessions and at sittings of a reduced soviet which, in the president's opinion, will have a positive effect on the realization of economic reform. It is not now within the competence of a reduced soviet to give its agreement to call a people's deputy to account, to release him from work at the initiative of the administration or transfer him, to switch his work at the initiative of the people's deputy, or to establish responsibility in accordance with legislation for not carrying out deputies duties.

Minimum Wage Implementation Postponed to 1 Jan

LD0612173191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1400 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] To judge from information from a parliamentary correspondent, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet agreed to a proposal by President Yeltsin to postpone implementation of the republic's law on raising the minimum amount of labor remuneration from 1 December of the current year to 1 January of next year. The law envisages that the minimum amount of pay in organizations and institutions that are financed from budget sources will be raised to 342 rubles a month, taking account of compensation.

Federation Affairs

Gaydar Discusses Rutskoy Comments, Economy

LD0812072191 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2159 GMT 5 Dec 91

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Yegor Gaydar believes that irresponsible public speeches by RSFSR President Aleksandr Rutskoy are directed against economic policies pursued by the Russian Government. At the December 5 press conference devoted to the results of the session of the Council of Ministers, Vice-Premier of the Russian Government Yegor Gaydar stated, in particular:

Before making such statements, Rutskoy should send his resignation. According to Gaydar, previously, at the government sessions, Rutskoy supported these policies, and the vice-president's present-day attempts to start another political game may not preserve the status quo in the Russian leadership. Gaydar reported that the Government of Russia decided to draft a presidential decree on the integral economic space in the territory of the Russian Federation. The project envisages to ban any limitation concerning trade between different regions of the RSFSR and discrimination in hiring work force under national or any other conditions.

According to Gaydar, the decree will be attached with a list of items which cannot be considered commercial secret. For example, Gaydar believes, the data on leaders of the state enterprises working at the same time in the commercial structures should be made public. Gaydar confirmed that since January 1, 1992, foreign entrepreneurs will be granted the right to open currency accounts at the Russian banks and denied information released by the mass media that the government intends to freeze till March 1992 up to 30 percent of wages for those working on a hire-basis and private bank deposits.

Gaydar reported that the decision of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet to allocate 90 billion roubles for the USSR Ministry of Finances contradicts the interests of Russia and should not be implemented. Gaydar rejected proposal to take economic sanctions against the Ukraine and to apply world prices in the commercial operations following the republican declaration of sovereignty.

'Closed Session' of Government Reported

PM0612170991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Dec 91 Union Edition p 1

["Own Information" report: "RSFSR Government Emergency Measures"]

[Text] A closed session of the RSFSR Government chaired by B.N. Yeltsin took place during the morning of 5 December, at which among other things a package of documents relating to the reorganization of the taxation system was approved. The number of taxes on enterprises, organizations, and citizens is being scaled down considerably.

A package of RSFSR presidential decrees and government resolutions was also examined, which will be submitted to parliament. These include the basic decree on the single economic area. This proposes that free movement of goods, resources, services, capital, and manpower should apply on Russian territory. An extremely important document was drawn up about a list of data that cannot constitute a commercial secret. The issue involves ensuring appropriate monitoring of the activity of various organizations, and primarily their financial situation.

Having examined the situation as regards energy supplies to the national economy and the Russian population over the winter, the government decided to establish an organ for emergencies in this field which will coordinate the work of transportation, the power system, and municipal services. An extremely reassuring measure is the one that involves overcoming the crisis situation as regards the supply of medicines and medical technology to the population. In this connection it was decided to earmark 1.35 billion foreign-currency rubles to purchase medicaments and apparatus for medical institutes. All the indications are that the medicines will be bought at controlled prices.

The issue of organizing work to provide aid for refugees and people who have been forced to resettle was examined at the session.

Yeltsin Adviser Briefs Press on Economic Reforms

PM0612154991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Dec 91 Union Edition p 2

[Special correspondent V. Kononenko article: "Yeltsin Adviser on Pace of Reforms"]

[Text] The news conference held by A. Golovkov, RSFSR state secretary and adviser, on 3 December dealt with the measures taken by the Russian Government to speed up economic reforms. A. Golovkov was one of the main drafters of the current program even before the appointment of the new RSFSR cabinet of ministers.

In response to your IZVESTIYA correspondent's question about how long the Russian people still have to wait before the reforms start working, the adviser stated that the critical mass of the solutions is still building up. Another package of around 20 similar documents in addition to the decrees already promulgated by the president should soon be issued. The chief one is the law on liberalizing prices. It is at the stage of being coordinated with the parliamentary working bodies. Questions in it concerning the procedure for introducing free prices and controlled prices for sources of energy and certain foodstuffs and collaboration with republics in this area are not yet agreed. Questions connected with the formation of the emergency budget for the first quarter of next year and the modification of the tax system and of the agrarian sphere must also be resolved at the same time. As A. Golovkov stressed, all this work must be completed this year.

Regarding the program's chances of success, the adviser stressed that confidence is to be derived from the fundamentally new situation in the Russian leadership. First, the team of economists which has been drawing up the reforms has joined the government and has the opportunity to put the reforms into practice and adjust them according to the situation. Previous attempts (the Abalkin, Yavlinskiy, and Saburov groups) did not have this opportunity.

It was also reported at the press conference that the trend toward the isolationism of the Ukraine is greatly altering the economic situation, but that is not a surprise for the drafters of the econonic reform and it is not introducing substantial modifications to the procedure whereby Russia makes the transition to the market. An influx of goods onto the shelves of our stores is in the offing. The influx will come from the manufacturers of goods, warehouses and other depots, and stores which have been holding back goods in expectation of new prices and from foreign sources. Regarding the Interstate Economic Committee, A. Golovkov stressed that the organ's decisions are not having a substantial impact upon the Russian Government's activity and that their significance is diminishing, except in the foregn economic sphere.

Health Minister Says Medicine Prices To Rise

LD0712095291 Moscow TASS in English 1625 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow December 6 TASS—The prices of medicines will be increased in Russia on an average fourfold when prices are freed, the Russian Federation Minister of Health Andrey Vorobyov and director of medicines-producing amalgamation Pharmacia Aleksandr Apazov told a news conference here today.

He said that unless a reform of pricing of medicines is made within a fortnight, drugstores will not have medicines to sell. In this situation the Health Ministry believes that its main purpose is to ensure that people suffering from chronical [as received] diseases survive. Medicines will be sold at a discount to patients depending on them.

The Russian Government allocated 1,350 million foreign currency rubles to cope with a shortage of medicines. The ministry plans to give up purchasing finished medicines and to purchase instead medical equipment and medicinal raw materials from which medicines will be manufactured at Russian enterprises, it was said at the news conference.

Fund Official Says No Delay in Dec Pensions

LD0812111591 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Russian inhabitants will receive their pensions at the normal time. There will not be any delay as far as December payments are concerned. This is reported by (Aleksandr Kurtin), chairman of the board of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic pensions fund. The fund guarantees the financing of higher pensions, established by the Russian parliament at 342 rubles, depending on length of service, as of January.

Yeltsin Appoints Regional Administrators

PM0612153391 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Dec 91 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[Text] By decrees dated 30 November, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has made the following appointments:

Viktor Ivanovich Berestovoy—head of the administration of Belgorod Oblast;
Boris Petrovich Ivanov—head of the administration of Chita Oblast;

Yuriy Vladimirovich Komarovskiy—head of the administration of the Nenetskiy Autonomous Okrug in Arkhangelsk Oblast;
Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov—head of the administration of Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast;

and by Decree dated 3 December;
Anatoliy Ivanovich Lisitsin—acting head of the administration of Yaroslavl Oblast.

Lawsuit Against Military Commander Stopped

LD0712131391 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1712 GMT 6 Dec 91

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] According to the information from competent sources, Procurator's Office of the RSFSR stopped the lawsuit against former commander of the Moscow Military District Colonel General Nikolay Kalinin. The case was halted due to exonerating circumstances.

A number of documents of Nikolay Kalinin, former commander of the Moscow Military District, were forwarded to the head directorate of personnel management of the USSR Defense Ministry, which is to consider the issue of Kalinin's further service.

Colonel General Nikolay Kalinin was among the first group charged of the support of the State Committee for the State of Emergency (SCSE). During the days of the August coup, Kalinin announced curfew in Moscow and signed the order demanding offices of district commanders to be set up in Moscow. Kalinin also signed orders to arrest a number of people's deputies.

Local Affairs

Popov: Suspension of Privatization Order Illegal

OW0712012591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0004 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov and Vice-Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov have declared the decisions passed by the Moscow city Duma (smaller council) December 4th to cancel the mayor's orders for privatization of municipal enterprises in trade, consumer goods and food products, to be illegal.

In statements distributed in the mayor and the Moscow government's names, it is said that the Duma's decision is a harsh breach of legislation, since according to the "situation on the status and structure of management organs for the city of Moscow, capital of the RSFSR," only Mossoviet [the Moscow Soviet] can suspend an order by the mayor, not the Duma. In addition to this, the document emphasizes that the privatization measures were suggested in relation to the Order by the Russian President "On empowering the organs of executive authorities in the city of Moscow."

In Popov and Luzhkov's statement the Duma's decision is called "a continuation in the chain of actions by those deputies of the Mossoviet who formed the Duma arbitrarily, and are constantly interrupting the mayor and the Moscow government's work to introduce economic reforms in Moscow to relieve Muscovites of their difficult material situation."

Moscow Demonstrators Protest Lack of 'Essentials'

LD0712103191 Moscow TASS in English 1024 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow December 6 TASS—Yuriy Sedij-Bondarenko, vice chairman of the Moscow City Council, addressed a crowd of enraged demonstrators protesting shortages of essentials in Moscow. Speaking in front of the municipality building, he complained that information about the council's attempts to cope with the situation is insufficient.

Sedij-Bondarenko said Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov ordered in September that no Moscow deputy should appear on TV. Since that time the Moscow Council has been in "an information blockade," he said.

He called the protesters' demands just and assured the council has taken appropriate measures. He said the council discussed the possibilities of obtaining food through bartering.

Trade Unions Blame Moscow Mayor for Economy

LD0712103891 Moscow TASS in English 1020 GMT 6 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[Text] Moscow December 6 TASS—Moscow's Federation of Trade Unions and the Moscow Convention of Entrepreneurs on Friday urged the Russian Government to help normalise the situation in the Soviet Capital.

"The mayor's office offers new recipes on how to move towards a free market nearly every day. Often they violate Russian legislation, hindering the development of free enterprise and reducing people's living standards," read the appeal to Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin and Russian parliamentary leader Ruslan Khasbulatov.

"The office is preoccupied with dividing party property and carrying out dubious commercial operations. It tries to command the economy and control the distribution of goods," the appeal said.

Mikhail Shmakov, leader of Moscow's Federation of Trade Unions, stressed the need to observe Russian laws and carry out social programmes to stabilise the situation in the city.

"Only free entrepreneurship and trade union activities will guarantee new jobs and protection against unemployment," Shmakov said.

Trade unions urged the Russian president to begin immediate talks with the city's trade unions and entrepreneurs to discuss social and economic problems.

"If the mayor's office, the Moscow Government and the City Council are unable to ensure stability in the city and create normal working and living conditions for Muscovites, we will demand their resignation," the appeal said.

In an interview with TASS on Thursday, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev described the food situation in Moscow as "critical."

Dudayev on Reports on Chechen-Ingush Refugees

LD0712124491 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 6 Dec 91

[Report by reporter R. Khadzhiyev from the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] It would seem that representatives of the Russian leadership who have arrived in Groznyy to prepare for and hold talks with the leaders of the Chechen Republic will have to leave Groznyy empty handed. In statements to Soviet and foreign media correspondents, Chechen President Dzhakhar Dudayev has unequivocally stated that as an indispensable condition for talks with the Russian leadership, the parliament and president of the Chechen Republic must be recognized by them.

Information being carried in some of the central media about the fact that 50,000 refugees have supposedly left the Chechen Republic is being viewed critically.

[Begin recording] [Dudayev] I would like to see these 50,000 refugees on central television. There are some who are leaving who are receiving hundreds and hundreds of thousands [not further specified] for their apartments. [recording cuts to following sentence in progress] ...and the enterprises that were under Union and Russian departments built up bases for themselves using money from republican funds. But we can stop refugees.

[Khadzhiyev] How?

[Dudayev] It would probably be fair if material wealth were to be shared among the republic's citizens. If there is any provocation of this nature, then we will be forced to examine the issue of only selling apartments for their residual net value [ostatochnaya balansovaya stoimost], including dachas and other material valuables. I think that then there would be no refugees. [end recording] [video shows street scenes, people reading local newspapers, Dudayev with some of his guards]

Chechen President Grants Asylum to Honecker

LD0712125991 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1230 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Report from Groznyy]

[Text] Dzakhar Dudayev is prepared to grant political asylum to Erich Honecker. He may live under the guard of the guardsmen of the Chechen Republic. As the local newspapers report today, Dudayev sent a telegram to Mikhail Gorbachev telling him that he is granting political asylum to Erich Honecker and asking for the latter to be notified of this decision.

Access to Chechen Republic Information Hampered

LD0812234291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2305 GMT 8 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 9 Dec (TASS)—The press service of Chechen Republic President Dzhokhar Dudayev was working long into the night, even on Sunday, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to find out any news in Chechnya. And as of today, this will evidently affect not only journalists but also official structures of Russia. The TASS correspondent was told by Sergey Boykov, an employee of the president's press service, that a decree has already been prepared by Dzhokar Dudayev which bans the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Procuracy from passing on any news to Moscow. The reason given for this tough decision is that allegedly there is "deliberate misinformation" coming out of the republic.

Ingush Poll Backs Sovereignty Within RSFSR

PM0912120591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Dec 91 Union Edition p 2

[Ali Kazikhanov report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Some 92.5 Percent of Votes Cast for Sovereign Ingushetia"]

[Text] The results of the referendum of the Ingush people held 1 December are out.

According to a report by M. Pliyev, leader of the People's Council of Ingushetia press service, 73.7 percent of the 132,000 people registered took part and 92.5 percent of them expressed themselves in favor of a sovereign Ingushetia within the RSFSR and the return of the territories seized in 1944.

Lechi Yakhyayev, adviser to the Chechen Republic president, denied rumors that D. Dudayev had canceled the congress of the Russian-speaking population due to have been held 30 November.

President Dzhakhar Dudayev, he reported, had met with the leaders of the Groznyy Cossack Department and discussed vital questions, but had not insisted on the cancelation of the congress. The leaders of the Russian-speaking population themselves decided to cancel the congress, aware that there is no objective need today to hold it. The situation is undergoing stabilization, and the main problem is to feed people, deal with crime, and disarm the inhabitants of the republic.

N. Ossetian OMON Fires on Ingush

LD0912084491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Summary] An incident occurred on 4 December in the Ingush village of Kurtak, formerly known as Godaborshelo. An armed clash occurred between the Ossetian Special Purpose Militia Detachment [OMON] on one side and a mobile post of Russian Internal Troops and the Ingush population on the other. At approximately 0230, an armored personnel carrier of the Ossetian OMON opened fire on the Russian Internal Troops' post as Russian soldiers were talking to local Ingush protecting their homes from attack by Ossetian extremists. Such attacks have become more frequent. A soldier from the mobile post of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs and a resident of Gurdat, an Ingush by nationality, were killed. The Ossetian OMON, with the assistance of reinforcements from among the Ossetians who hastened to join them, totaled as many as 60 people, who then fired on Ingush homes in Gurdat along Gorkiy, Lomonosov, and Internationalnaya Streets. Sixteen people were injured, among them women and children. Ingush hostages were taken.

The event is seen as a reaction to the referendum held recently in Ingushetia, in which the Ingush population declared its decision to be included in Russia. A few days ago, Major General Kantemirov, North Ossetian minister of internal affairs, speaking on republican television, addressing the Ingush population, said: "In the event of any military action whatsoever being undertaken by Chechen-Ingushetia with regard to North Ossetian lands, you, the Ingush who live here, will become our hostages."

The Ingush population sees such statements by the statesmen of North Ossetia as a result of the imprecise policies of the Russian center which has, more than once, promised the Ingush population that it will take to its logical conclusion the RSFSR law on the complete rehabilitation of repressed peoples.

(Yuriy Reshetnykh), a militia lieutenant working for the press center of the RSFSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, gives the ministry's view of the incident, saying that news reached Vladikavkaz at about 0300 on 4 December. According to (Reshetnykh), the 10 members of the North Ossetian OMON were fired upon and their vehicles damaged. The militia fired back as they endeavored to seize one of the vehicles. An unemployed local Ingush was killed. It was established that he was also drunk. Three of his accomplices have been arrested. One is a deputy of the rayon soviet. The rayon procuracy has released him. The criminals' weapons have been confiscated.

North Ossetia Appeals to Yeltsin on S. Ossetia

LD0812151591 Moscow TASS in English 0949 GMT 8 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz December 8 TASS—"Tragic developments in South Ossetia may lead to complete extermination of people in South Ossetia," says a telegram sent by the North Ossetian parliament to Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and Russian parliament chief Ruslan Khasbulatov.

"Tskhinvali is in a tight ring of economic and energy blockade. The supply of electricity and gas has been switched off, factories are at a standstill, and all roads by which Tskhinvali received bread, medicines and prime necessities have been cut off... Populated areas are under constant bombardment. The number of casualties and hostages is growing," says the telegram circulated here today.

"On behalf of the North Ossetian parliament, we request you to take tough economic measures and apply sanctions to the Republic of Georgia and to urge its leadership to end the war against South Ossetia and stop genocide against the Ossetian population of Georgia," the telegram reads.

Volunteers Take Oath for North Ossetia Guard

LD0712193691 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Around 500 of the first volunteers of the republican guard, which they consider to be part of the National Guard of Russia, took an oath of loyalty to the people and to democracy in Vladikavkaz on 7 December. By the end of the year, the guard in North Ossetia will number 2,000. Around 35-40 million rubles will be required for its formation and upkeep, according to the assessments of experts. This was reported by RIA [Russian Information Agency] today.

Tension 'Suits' N. Ossetia Nomenklatura

PM0612195191 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Nov 91 First Edition p 2

[Article by Vladimir Dzarasov, head of the Political Economy Department at the North Ossetian State University and member of the "Democratic Ossetia" movement coordination council, under the "Hotbeds" rubric: "A Cobblestone—The Partocrat's Argument"]

[Text] It appears that the party elite which has established a grip on power in the provinces is prepared to reconcile itself to interethnic conflicts rather than part with its power and recognize the inevitability of democratic transformations.

Tension has existed between the Ossetians and the Ingush for years. It has grown swiftly in recent times. The permanent rally in Nazrani demanding that the territory belonging to the Ingush before their deportation in 1944 be returned, and the threats of armed invasion have fundamentally made the situation on both sides of the border more tense. The uneasy population's alarm has intensified following the emergency session of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet, which adopted a decision on the formation of a national guard and bestowed unlimited powers on its chairman.

Trying to somehow help prevent bloodshed, and having contacted the Ingush side (at the level of people's diplomacy), the members of the "Democratic Ossetia" coordination council adopted an appeal at their session to the conflicting sides. It was broadcast on North Ossetian radio. It said, notably: "We, the Ingush and Ossetians, must understand that the destinies of our small peoples are indivisible. We have many unresolved economic, social, political, and other issues to deal with. The bloody conflict over a plot of earth will set our peoples back decades. Not to mention the fact that disputed territories are not worth human lives, the tears of our mothers and sisters, and the suffering of children and old people. We appeal to the Ingush and the Ossetians to display wisdom and good sense and not be led by instigators who are sowing hostility and hatred between our peoples. Remember: It is easy to start something, but it will be hard to stop. We have no alternative but to resolve the controversial questions at the negotiating table in the spirit of the best Caucasian traditions."

Imagine the astonishment caused by the telephone calls of protest to the radio committee. And within an hour an armed group even appeared, wanting to clarify relations with its chairman Saukudz Aguzarov, who was said to have given permission for the appeal to be broadcast. The militia, which was defending the radio committee, did not allow the zealous "guardsmen" in. In the evening, however, cobblestones were thrown at the windows of Aguzarov's apartment, and just before midnight he was told over the telephone of the "true patriots'" very serious intentions. The next day, on instructions from above, as used to happen in the "good old days," the radio committee collective subjected Aguzarov to a moral lynching. He was given the order: Either repent or resign. And in general, stop editing the democrats' newspaper DEMOS, which criticizes Akhsarbek Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet. The other authors of the appeal were not left in peace by the "patriots" either: Some were threatened with physical reprisals, while others were merely taken to task for being "unpatriotic."

Of course in the radio appeal no one cast any doubt on the Ossetians' right to defend themselves. Particularly since the mass media had repeatedly reported on the armed intentions of the Ingush side. But since when could an appeal not to shed one another's blood be equated with a criminal action? After all, within the past few days an identical appeal to the people of Checheno-Ingushetia from another social organization was published on the front page of SEVERNAYA OSETIYA, the republic Supreme Soviet's newspaper. So why was the anger directed at us?

The whole point is that the "Democratic Ossetia" social movement does not take advice from or coordinate its actions with the republic's conservative supreme power. Not only that, it has repeatedly called for Galazov, who is opposed to the Russian democratic leadership and who openly supported the State Committee for the State of Emergency 19-21 August, to resign. And since that is the case, the nomenklatura brain decided, we have no right to call for peace. Instead, at the Supreme Soviet session where the party mafia sets the tone, appeals for a ban on all parties and movements that do not suit them were freely aired. Those who did not agree with the leadership's opinion were called enemies of their own people. The ruling elite's understanding of democracy is scarcely capable of quelling interethnic conflicts.

If we are going to be honest about this, then we have to say right out: Interethnic tension suits the ruling party nomenklatura. Galazov's minions often make the following reproach to the democrats: "Why are you raising the issue of his resignation at such a time, when we need to unite against the common enemy? You don't change horses in mid-stream..."

This is the party elite's old tune: to keep power at any price and prove that it alone can defend the people's best interests. But now there are many people in Ossetia who do not believe this myth. So, by way of an irrefutable argument, the party elite has had to use the proletariat's favorite weapon—the cobblestone.

Tatarstan Signs Economic Accord With Federation

LD0812145791 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1700 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] How should Tatarstan's oil be divided—into equal parts or fairly? This issue has been resolved in principle in the agreement on economic cooperation signed in Moscow on 6 December between the governments of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and Tatarstan. This was stated by Prime Minister of Tatarstan Mukhammat Sabirov to a TASS correspondent today.

The sixth article states: The sides recognize that Tatarstan will independently refine, extract, and sell its natural resources on its own territory, first and foremost oil and the by-products of its refinement. The prime minister said that insofar as oil in the RSFSR is extracted on the basis of mutually beneficial, annually concluded treaties, then of the 28 million tonnes of oil that the Tatneft Association is planning to extract in 1992, half will go to Russia, in return for which it will guarantee Tatarstan oil workers the material and technical resources they require.

Prime Minister Reviews Moscow Talks

LD0812033191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1222 GMT 7 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[Text] Kazan, 7 Dec (TASS)—The aspirations of our people have at last been realized, stated Mukhammat Sabirov, prime minister of Tataria, to the TASS correspondent today on his arrival from Moscow. The signing of an agreement between the governments of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and the Republic of Tatarstan on economic cooperation took place in the capital today.

For the first time since 1552 (when, as a result of the Kazan campaigns (1545-1552), the Kazan Khanate was annexed to the Russian state—TASS note) the Russian Government has sat down, in very imposing form, at the negotiations table with the government of Tatarstan, Mukhammat Sabirov stressed.

The prime minister reported that the sides had considered issues of property, finances, monetary and credit relations, the extraction and processing of minerals, and material and technical supply. An agreement with 15 articles will be the basis for the signing of a treaty between the presidents of Russia and Tatarstan. "The path chosen by us of mutual consultations and mutually advantageous agreements," the prime minister of Tatarstan said in conclusion, "is the best and most effective factor for surmounting the crisis very quickly."

Tatarstan Sets Foreign Economic Activity Rules

OW0812214091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1922 GMT 8 Dec 91

[From the Soviet "Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The president of Tatarstan (Middle Volga Region) has published a decree, whereby all government guaranteed contracts relating to economic activity, trade, and scientific and humanitarian ties with foreign companies must be thoroughly examined by a committee of experts set up by the state before they can be signed. The results of the committee's deliberations will then be passed to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic, which will give its decision on whether or not the deal is to be approved.

International Affairs

Further on Relations, Treaty With Hungary

LD0612171591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1412 GMT 6 Dec 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Dec (TASS)—A protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between Russia and Hungary and a treaty on friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries were signed in the Kremlin today by RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin and Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall. Speaking after the signing of the documents, Boris Yeltsin said that very big events are expected in Russia in December—the switch to the market path of development, with all the consequences flowing from that: privatization, conversion of enterprises into joint-stock companies, changes in the tax and financial systems, and liberalization of foreign economic ties and of prices. Price liberalization will begin on 16 December, he confirmed once more. It will be a difficult period. Therefore, the Russian president's visits to Hungary and Romania will be postponed. Boris Yeltsin stated that the situation which has developed in connection with the Ukraine's declaration of independence will be discussed during the forthcoming meeting of the leaders of Russia, the Ukraine, and Belarus [Belarussia], which takes place in Minsk on 7 December. I do not imagine a Union without the Ukraine, he stressed. It is possible that the independent Ukraine will agree to some version of a treaty, but perhaps it will not participate in that type of political treaty. We need to seek alternatives of some sort, so as not to lose ties with that republic, Boris Yeltsin said.

Jozsef Antall stated that a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between Hungary and the Ukraine and a similar treaty will be signed between the two republics. He commented that the USSR and Russian presidents regard this political step as natural and that it was received with understanding. The Hungarian prime minister leaves for Kiev today.

Diplomatic Relations Established

OW0612205491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [6 December] in the Kremlin, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Hungarian Premier Jozsef Antall signed a treaty on friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries. The foreign ministers Mikhail Kozyrev and Geza Jezsenszky signed a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations. A little earlier on Friday [6 December] Soviet President Gorbachev and the Hungarian premier signed a treaty on cooperation and neighborly relations between the USSR and Hungary.

At a short press conference following this Yeltsin said: "We are filling in the gaps which were made as a result of the break-up of the Soviet Union's economic ties with the Eastern European states." He also stated that his visits to Hungary and Romania which were planned for January 1992 will be postponed due to the tense situation in Russia. Yeltsin confirmed that prices would be freed starting December 16th.

Jozsef Antall emphasized that Hungary wants to sign an analogous treaty with its direct neighbor, Ukraine. Presidents Gorbachev and Yeltsin could relate to this with understanding. Antall also expressed his satisfaction that

Yeltsin in the Treaty on friendly relations gave his mark on the events in Hungary in 1956, by saying "this was formerly acceptable in the USSR. "

In conclusion, Yeltsin expressed his thanks to the Hungarian Premier since during the coup in August Antall had been one of the first people to call the White House in Moscow and announce his support for Yeltsin.

Treaties To Fill 'Gap'

LD0712015291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 6 Dec 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] Today there were talks between Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and Hungary's Prime Minister Jozsef Antall. The conversation noted that the changes taking place in our country and the increasing role of the republics require a shift in relations between Russia and Hungary to a new level. It was stressed that the experience accrued by Hungary in making the transition from a communist to a market economy could be useful for us.

On completion of the talks, a treaty on friendly relations and cooperation between Russia and Hungary was signed, together with a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Following the velvet revolutions in the former Communist countries of Eastern Europe, we, as far as the Union is concerned, have lost practically all links with them. Yet over decades we represented markets for one another, via the CEMA. So we can fill that gap, albeit late, through Russia, by concluding direct treaties with those countries, moreover, treaties of an all-encompassing nature covering politics, economics, culture, in short, all spheres in the life of our peoples and our countries. We have already signed documents with Czechoslovakia. You will recall that the president of Bulgaria, M. Zhelev, paid a visit here. Now this is the third of the treaties with those countries. [end recording]

Yeltsin Cited on Outcome

LD0612190991 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1500 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Report by correspondent Igor Sidorovich]

[Excerpts] This was the first visit to the Soviet Union by the head of the Hungarian Government since the change of social system in Hungary. [passage omitted]

The head of the Hungarian Government held talks with Presidents Gorbachev and Yeltsin and with Minister Shevardnadze. I want to stress, in particular, that Russia signed its first inter-state treaty as a sovereign state with Hungary. Here is how Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, speaking to journalists, assessed the results of his talks with the Hungarian premier:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] The discussion proceeded in a very frank atmosphere. We told each other about the situation in our countries. It must be said that Hungary has accumulated good experience in the switch to the market, to privatization. It is probably one of the best in the former communist countries that have thrown off the communist hat. That experience is very useful to us, and we are very grateful for the invitation to share that experience. In addition, I am personally grateful to Mr. Antall for being one of the first to telephone me in the Russian White House on 19 August, during the coup, and to express support on behalf of the government and people of Hungary for the efforts the democratic forces were making then in the fight against the coup plotters. I am very grateful to him and to the people of Hungary for that. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Naturally, President Yeltsin also was asked the following question at the abovementioned news conference in the Vladimir Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace: Hungary is signing a treaty with the Ukraine, but what does Russia think? What will be the fate of the Union? Here is Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's answer:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Tomorrow, I will visit and meet with the leadership of the Ukraine, the new Ukrainian president, and we will discuss that problem because I cannot imagine a Union without the Ukraine. In that case, the Ukraine and Russia would be on different sides of the barricades, as it were; that is impossible. Our peoples are united by a thousand years of history, so we must seek to live as good neighbors and to cooperate in peace. Therefore, if the Ukraine accepts some kind of version—it is independent, and it determines its own policy—some kind of version of the treaty, then it might be signed, some kind of version, maybe for two or three years, perhaps excluding certain articles of that treaty, and that version is possible. However, it also is possible that the Ukraine will not participate in a political treaty of that type. Then we will have to seek alternatives of some sort, so that we do not lose our links with the republics [end recording]

And finally, the foreign ministers of Russia and Hungary also signed a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations today.

Antall Views Talks

LD0612212291 Budapest MTI in English 1919 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, December 6 (MTI)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin decided to postpone a visit to Budapest originally scheduled for this month, he told Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall today.

Citing reasons for his decision, Yeltsin cited tensions in Russian domestic affairs.

The Hungarian side understands Yeltsin's standpoint, Antall confirmed, saying the invitation remains open.

In another development, Antall spoke highly of the significance of Russia's revising its position on the 1956 Hungarian revolution.

"We appreciate Russia's gesture as well as similar moves by the Soviet side," Antall said.

Speaking about the Hungarian-Russian basic treaty, signed during the talks, Antall said a settlement must be reached concerning the international legal status of Russia, and the country must be admitted to the United Nations.

Yeltsin thanked Antall for the political and moral support of the Hungarian Government and the prime minister himself at the time of the failed Soviet coup this past August.

Answering questions, Yeltsin said it will be extremely difficult to clarify financial issues related to the Soviet troops withdrawal from Hungary. Although he admitted the troops had caused environmental damage, he said it is impossible to gauge its size. He promised, however, that if further examinations render no results, the debate will proceed to the highest level for settlement.

Answering a question about payment for Hungarian goods deliveries, Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall said the recently concluded bank agreement will provide guarantees for that.

"We are dependent on each other, therefore, we both have to make efforts to resolve the problems," Antall said.

Yeltsin Postpones Hungary, Romania Visits

LD0612230791 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Dec 91

[From the Vesti newscast]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin has reported that his visits to Hungary and Romania will be postponed in connection with the fact that great events of historical importance are expected in Russia in December: the transition to the market path of development with all of its attributes—privatization, the formation of joint stock companies, the change of the taxation and financial systems, and liberalization. Price liberalization, he stressed once again, will begin on 16 December. This will be a difficult period, the Russian president noted.

Gaydar Addresses Soviet-U.S. Trade Conference

PM0912110591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Dec 91 p 2

[G. Ivanov report: "We Need One Another. Soviet-U.S. Conference on Trade and Economic Cooperation in Moscow"]

[Text] This representative forum opened yesterday, 4 December, in the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses. It was organized by "Interprivatizatsiya," the International Fund for Aiding Privatization and Foreign Investment, in conjunction with the "Russkiy Kapital" joint-stock company and the USSR Science and Industry Union. Hundreds of businessmen representing various sectors of U.S. industry, trade, and enterprise came to Moscow from the United States. The range of questions to be discussed by the conference participants is extensive: What must be done to expand practical cooperation in the economic sphere between the two countries most speedily, how should U.S. businessmen who still mistrust the "Soviets" be induced to invest in our economy, and can business in a land of shortages be beneficial to everyone?

USSR President M.S. Gorbachev and U.S. President G. Bush sent greetings to the participants.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Ye. Gaydar described the Russian Government's new market policy.

Many people in our country thought that you only had to remove ideological barriers and the country's successful entry into the market would be assured. Regrettably, the reality proved somewhat different. The administrative-edict system that reigned for decades in the USSR has left behind it inherent faults that will affect our lives for a long time to come...

The economy was inefficient, but relatively stable. Low prices were, as it were, the government's payoff to the people for the merciless exploitation, low wages, and poor social protection. We could not go on like that any longer. There is understanding of the situation. We are interested in enlisting direct foreign capital investment in the country most speedily. There are no serious grounds for the fears felt by some of the population that the Americans will come along and buy up the whole economy on the cheap. But there is another obstacle that you cannot brush aside: macroeconomic instability and political and national disorder.

It is the government's job not to teach businessmen how to operate, but to create conditions for them to apply their efforts to the maximum effect. Preconditions are emerging for the stabilization of the situation in the country. But it will not be all that easy to realize these preconditions. Monetary disproportions must be corrected on the fly, the tax system restructured, and budgetary order restored.

Speaking about reserves and new areas of Soviet-U.S. business cooperation, Ye. Gaydar primarily mentioned military conversion. Roughly 50 Soviet cities are entirely "tied up with the defense industry." There is vast technical and human potential there. Why not enlist major Western investment there?

The conference participants were addressed by Russian President B.N. Yeltsin.

Sakhalin Governor Discusses 'Options' for Kurils

PM0912122091 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Dec 91 p 5

[Report on interview with Valentin Fedorov, governor of Sakhalin Oblast, by correspondent I. Latyshev in Tokyo—date not stated: "The Business of All Russia"]

[Text] Tokyo—V.P. Fedorov, governor of Sakhalin Oblast, was in Tokyo last week. He met with a number of Japanese state and public figures, and also some of the leaders of the business world. During the conversations they touched on questions of relations between the two countries at the level of Sakhalin Oblast and Hokkaido Island, as well as a broad spectrum of questions relating to the general prospects for the development of Soviet-Japanese relations. In the course of the talks the Japanese side also raised the so-called "territorial question." In this connection some conjectures have appeared in the local press, in particular hints at the supposed consent by the governor of Sakhalin to cede to Japan the southern part of the Kurils—the group of islands that goes by the general name of Habomai.

Prior to V.P. Fedorov's departure for home, your correspondent met and talked with him. I quote below the main observations made by the governor of Sakhalin in reply to my perplexed question: Is there any truth in the Japanese press story that he admits the possibility of handing over the Habomai islands to Japan?

"This story," V.P. Fedorov said, "is invented, of course. But I can explain how this fabrication came about.

"So that the people of Sakhalin will not be blamed or accused groundlessly of holding back the improvement of relations between Japan and Russia, we have drawn up our own proposals for a way out of the present situation. And we are ready to go much further than either the Moscow foreign ministry or Tokyo is prepared to consider, still less to talk about. We propose four options.

"The first option is to extend integration relations to Sakhalin Oblast and Hokkaido. This means embarking on a rapprochement of the economic and social life of the two islands. In the course of such a rapprochement both countries would have a long way to go. But our proposals did not meet with a positive response from the Japanese side.

"We then decided to submit to the Japanese side for its consideration a second option for mutually beneficial cooperation between our countries in the Kuril Islands zone. Here we proceed from the premise that the Kuril Islands should be preserved as a natural base, a pure natural environment. It might be possible to declare all the Kuril Islands and the northern part of Hokkaido an international nature reserve. And the southern part of Kamchatka could be included in this reserve, although, of course, it has its own population and its own governor, and I have not yet discussed this question with him. Some Japanese professors whom I met, for instance, showed interest in this idea. The implementation of this plan could begin today, taking, for instance, the islands the Japanese call Habomai. At the moment the people of the Kurils do not live there permanently. Therefore it would be possible to make an immediate start there on putting our idea into practice. But if in future we do not find an interest on the Japanese side in setting up this international reserve zone, then we will have to act at our own discretion. Here I wish to stress that in all my discussions with the Japanese side about the islands' future I proceed on the basis that these islands are ours and will remain ours. The Japanese not infrequently perceive every movement on our side to accommodate them as a surrender of our positions. There can be no question of territorial concessions. And if any politician of ours were to go so far as to hand over these islands to Japan, he would be committing political suicide. Everyone should realize that, and that includes Yeltsin.

"We also have a third, even simpler option for achieving progress in relations with Japan: Let us abolish visas entirely between Sakhalin Oblast and Hokkaido. After all, it is very hard for us people of Sakhalin to obtain Japanese visas even today. We have to take a plane to Nakhodka every time, to get a visa from the Japanese Consulate. All this takes a lot of time and is very inconvenient. We are proposing to Japan that visas be abolished for visits to Sakhalin Oblast by Japanese people and for visits to Japan by people from Sakhalin and the Kurils. But unfortunately these proposals of ours are also not being accepted.

"So then we finally offer the Japanese the fourth and last option, the simplest of all. Let us mutually abolish visas between sister cities. We have many such cities. But the Japanese side has not accepted this proposal either.

"Those are the four options we have proposed. Surely they indicate that the Sakhalin leadership is actively engaged in seeking to establish Soviet-Japanese good-neighborliness and cooperation. To depict us as a brake on the further development of Japanese-Soviet relations is simply mistaken. In fact we are going much further than the Japanese side.

"At the same time I would like to stress this: We, the people of Sakhalin and the Kurils, are aware of our responsibility to Russia—our responsibility for the fate of this part of Russian territory. The people of Russia are watching us and seeing how we behave. We regard ourselves as the bulwark of resistance to Japanese encroachments on the Kurils. Especially since we cannot now rely on either the central or the Russian leadership. Since 1985, since the moment perestroyka began, the present Soviet leadership has not upheld the country's national interests in a single important question of international relations. Now the Russian Government also has to take responsibility for foreign policy. A general disintegration of the country is in progress—disintegration of the Soviet Union, and now of Russia too. On the PRC border they handed over Damanskiy

Island and a number of other islands in the Amur. Then in the Bering Sea a significant sea area belonging to our economic zone was handed over to the United States. It seems that the Kurils are the last link in the chain of territorial concessions I have mentioned. If we hand over the Kurils, everything will slip through our fingers. And since we cannot rely on the Russian leadership, obviously the defense of Russia's interests will come from below, through the political parties, mass movements, the Cossacks, individual regions. We, the people of Sakhalin, had not expected to find such vigorous support from all over the country.

"As for the Russian Foreign Ministry leaders, I do not trust them: neither Minister Kozyrev nor his deputy Kunadze. These people call themselves democrats. Being a democrat is not enough—you have to be a patriot too. Our politicians and diplomats are trying to please the Japanese: first, to hand over the islands, and second, to do so as quickly as possible. Some people hope that as a result of the sale or handover of these islands the government will suddenly find it has money. To expect to be able to remedy the economy by handing over our territory, our paramount wealth, is a profound delusion. In the South Kurils region they catch billions of dollars worth of fish. If these islands are handed over, next year we will have to pay the Japanese a billion dollars for our own Kurils fish. And that will make our economic situation even worse."

The views of the governor of Sakhalin are entirely in accordance with the vital interests and feelings both of the inhabitants of the Kuril Islands and of the public in Russia as a whole. Our compatriots have in V.P. Fedorov not only an active champion of Soviet-Japanese good-neighborliness, but also an unswerving defender of our Motherland's Far Eastern borders, capable of firmly resisting the propaganda pressure from those who today intend to sell off Russian land on the basis of considerations which they know to be fallacious, opportunist economic considerations, and illusory at that.

Interrepublic Affairs

Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia Form 'Community'

LD0812201291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1920 GMT 8 Dec 91

[By BELTA correspondents Ya. Alekseychik and V. Glod]

[Text] Minsk, 8 Dec (TASS)—Today in Belarus [Belorussia], the leaders of the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation, and the Ukraine signed an agreement to set up a community of independent states.

"We, the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation (RSFSR), and the Ukraine, being founding member states of the USSR, being signatories of the Union Treaty of 1922, and hereinafter referred to as the esteemed contracting parties, state that the USSR, as a subject of international law and a geopolitical reality, ceases to exist," the preamble to this document says.

The leaders of the three states, it continues, have taken this step based on the common historical features of the peoples and the links that have formed between them; strive to build democratic and law-based states; and to develop their relations on the basis of mutual recognition of and respect for each other's sovereignty and of the principles of equal rights and noninterference in internal affairs. The leaders believe that further development and strengthening of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation meet the fundamental interests of their peoples and serve the cause of peace and security.

The parties confirmed their commitment to the goals and principles of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act; committed themselves to observe international norms on human rights and the rights of peoples; guaranteed their citizens equal rights and freedoms, regardless of their nationality; and committed themselves to promote the preservation and development of the cultural, linguistic, and religious individuality of ethnic minorities.

With the aim of developing equal and mutually beneficial cooperation of peoples and states, it has been decided to conclude special agreements in the sphere of politics, the economy, culture, education, public health, science, trade, the environment, and other fields. A statement has been made on recognition of and respect for the territorial integrity of the states that have signed the agreement and for the inviolability of the existing borders, the open nature of these, and the free movement of citizens.

The members of the community intend to cooperate in guaranteeing international peace and security and in implementing measures to reduce military expenditures and armaments. They will strive for the elimination of nuclear weapons and for total disarmament under international control. At the same time, the sides will respect each other's desire to achieve the status of nuclear-free zones and neutral states. It has been decided to preserve unified command of a common military-strategic system and united control over nuclear weapons.

The sides consider their joint activity to be the following: the coordination of external policy, the formation and development of the common economic area, the European and Euro-Asian markets, customs and migration policies, the development of transport and communications systems, the protection of the environment and ecological safety, and the fight against organized crime.

Being aware of the global nature of the Chernobyl catastrophe, the parties of the agreement have reached an accord to unite and coordinate their efforts in overcoming its consequences. A special document is to be signed with regard to this problem.

From the moment of the conclusion of the agreement, the application of the standards of third countries, including the former USSR, on the territory of the states that have signed the agreement is not permitted, and the activity of bodies of the former Union ceases. Fulfillment of international commitments stemming from treaties and agreements signed by the USSR is guaranteed.

The agreement is open for accession by all members of the former USSR and other states that share the aims and principles of the document. The city of Minsk has been chosen as the official location of the coordinating bodies of the community.

The document was signed by Stanislav Shushkevich and Vyacheslav Kebich for the Republic of Belarus; by Boris Yeltsin and Gennadiy Burbulis for the RSFSR; by Leonid Kravchuk and Vitold Fokin for the Ukraine.

Speaking at a brief news conference, Stanislav Shushkevich, Supreme Soviet chairman of the Republic of Belarus, said: "We are extremely worried about the situation that has come about as a result of the disintegration of the Union. For this reason, we have, within the framework of the rights constitutionally granted to us, taken the initiative and signed an agreement on establishing a community of three independent states. The signing of this document implies definite changes of structure and of power, and so we have agreed to continue our work."

The peoples of the three states have decided to work jointly, Russian President Boris Yeltsin stated.

The joint work of the leaders of the three republics is continuing.

Declaration on New Commonwealth

LD0812201491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1943 GMT 8 Dec 91

["Declaration by the Heads of the State of the Republics of Belarus [Belorussia], RSFSR, and the Ukraine"—TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received] We, the leaders of the Republics of Belarus, the RSFSR, and Ukraine

—noting that the negotiations to draw up a new Union treaty are deadlocked, that the objective process of secession by republics from the USSR and the formation of independent states have become a reality;

—affirming that the myopic policy of the center has led to profound economic and political crisis, to the collapse of industry, a catastrophic decline in the living standards of practically all layers of society;

—taking into account the growth in social tension in many regions of the former USSR, which has led to interethnic conflicts with numerous human victims;

—conscious of our responsibility before our peoples and the world community, and of the urgent need for practical implementation of political and economic reforms, declare the creation of a community of independent states, in respect of which the agreement was signed by the parties on 8 December 1991.

The community of independent states, consisting of the republics of Belarus, RSFSR, and the Ukraine, is open for accession by all member states of the USSR, as well as by other states that share the aim and principles of the said agreement.

The member states of the community intend to pursue a policy of strengthening international peace and security. They guarantee to honor international obligations from treaties and agreements of the former USSR, and to ensure unified control over nuclear weapons and their nonproliferation.

[Signed] Belarus Supreme Soviet Chairman S. Shushkevich

RSFSR President B. Yeltsin

Ukraine President L. Kravchuk

8 December 1991, Minsk

Declaration on Economic Policy

LD0812205291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1955 GMT 8 Dec 91

["Declaration by the Governments of the Republic of Belarus [Belorussia], the Russian Federation, and the Ukraine on Coordination of Economic Policy"—TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received] It is vitally important to maintain and develop the existing close economic links between our states in order to stabilize the situation in the economy and pave the way for economic revival.

The parties have agreed on the following:

—To conduct coordinated radical economic reforms aimed at creating fully fledged market mechanisms, transforming property relations, and insuring freedom of enterprise;

—To refrain from any actions inflicting economic damage upon each other;

—To base economic relations and settlements on the existing unit of currency, the ruble; to introduce national currencies on the basis of special agreements that guarantee observance of the parties' economic interests;

—To conclude an inter-bank agreement aimed at restricting monetary issue, insuring effective control of the money in circulation, and forming a system of mutual settlements;

—To pursue a coordinated policy of reducing the deficits of the republican budgets;

—To pursue a coordinated policy of price liberalization and of social protection for citizens;

—To undertake joint action aimed at insuring unity of the economic space;

—To coordinate foreign economic activity and customs policy, and to insure freedom of transit;

—To resolve by way of a special agreement the issue of indebtedness of former Union enterprises;

—To agree within 10 days on the amounts of and procedure for financing in 1992 expenditure on defense and on eliminating the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station;

—To request the Supreme Soviets of the republics that, when formulating taxation policy, they take into account the need for coordinating value added tax rates;

—To facilitate the establishment of joint ventures and joint-stock companies;

—To draw up during December a mechanism for implementation of interrepublican economic agreements.

[Signed] On behalf of the Republic of Belarus—V. Kebich

On behalf of the Russian Federation—G. Burbulis

On behalf of the Ukraine—V. Fokin

Shushkevich Comments on Agreement

LD0912101191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 9 Dec 91

[By Leonid Sviridov]

[Text] Speaking at a brief news conference, Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the

Republic of Belorussia, said, quote: We are extremely worried by the situation that has evolved as a result of the disintegration of the Union. That is why we have come forward with the initiative, within the framework of the rights that have been allocated to us by the Constitution, and have signed an agreement on establishing a commonwealth of three independent states. The signing of this agreement will involve some changes in structures and power. That is why we have agreed to continue our work—end quote.

Three peoples have decided to act together, said Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The joint work of the leaders of three republics continues.

This information was obtained at the press center of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belorussia.

Yeltsin Holds News Conference

PM0812193391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Dec 91 Union Edition p 1

[IZVESTIYA correspondent N. Matukovskiy-TASS report: "Will They Find the Way to a New Union in the Belovezhskaya Forest?"]

[Text] Minsk, 8 Dec—"The Belorussian people have a splendid saying: 'The closer a neighbor, the lower the fence.' That is why we have to do everything to ensure that there are no high fences between Russia and Belarus [Belorussia],"—first words from Russian President Boris Yeltsin's at Minsk Airport.

Then, addressing Belorussian parliamentarians, the Russian president noted that Russia advocates bilateral, trilateral, and multilateral relations. All opportunities for strengthening contacts must be exploited. From this viewpoint particular importance is attached to the incipient meeting between the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.

Speaking about the impending liberalization of prices, Boris Yeltsin advanced the idea that all republics need it. You won't cut yourselves off from this process with any fences. Therefore coordinated, concerted actions are needed. However, according to the speaker, this by no means signifies that the liberalization of prices in Russia and any other sovereign republic must start precisely at the appointed time. The president gave assurances that Russia will refrain from unilateral actions like issuing its own money provided it is not goaded into this by other sovereign states.

Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet, and Russian president Boris Yeltsin exchanged the instruments of ratification of the treaty between their republics.

The treaty guarantees citizens in Belarus and Russia the right to retain or acquire citizenship of one of the sides. Both republics pledge to guarantee the other side's citizens equal rights and freedoms to their own citizens. Both Russia and Belarus deemed it advisable to closely coordinate foreign policy actions, including servicing the common foreign debt. They also noted their joint commitment to collaborate in forming a common economic space, managing the sides' common power-generation, transport, information technology, and communications systems, in the sphere of environmental conservation, and implementing customs policy.

In the near future the sovereign republics will open permanent missions in Moscow and Minsk.

Then an agreement on Belarus-Russian trade and economic cooperation for the coming year was signed.

After this Boris Yeltsin and Stanislav Shushkevich held a brief news conference.

The Russian president's answers were detailed and supremely frank.

[IZVESTIYA] Will questions of the new Union treaty be discussed without the participation of the current center during the incipient meeting of the "triumvirate"? How do you regard Leonid Kravchuk's idea of creating a union of three Slav states?

[Yeltsin] We will carefully discuss four or five options, including the option of three Slav states. On which one will we settle? It would be unethical on my part to anticipate the results of the talks. You will learn of them later.

[IZVESTIYA] Why is Russia not proposing its version of the Union treaty?

[Yeltsin] I will do so today.

[IZVESTIYA] There is persistent talk about another putsch in the future, this time a purely military putsch. One newspaper has even written: "The potential putschists have already set up their communications system, codes, and operational plans." How do you regard this talk?

[Yeltsin] I think that someone is simply frightening us with this talk. We have now established very good relations with the Army—with the leadership and the rank and file. We visit units frequently and know the soldiers' mood.... The last putsch taught us a great deal. We have removed the "crack" [sverkhpbuchennyye] subunits that might have posed a social danger from the KGB and transferred them to presidential jurisdiction. Other reliable steps have also been taken... [Yeltsin ends]

The aircraft carrying Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk landed at Minsk-2 Airport on the afternoon of 7 December. By that time Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet, was already there.

The leaders of the three Slav republics left by air for the government's Viskuli residence in the Belovezhskaya forest. The intention is for the trilateral talks to end on the afternoon of 8 December.

Yeltsin on Union, Other Issues

OW0712164591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [7 December] the Russian President Boris Yeltsin and First Deputy Chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers Gennadiy Burbulis arrived in Minsk, the capital of Belarus [Belorussia], the Belarus parliament, Mr. Yeltsin said that "there are ever fewer potential participants in negotiations on the creation of a Union. [sentence as received] If things go on in this manner, there will be no one at all to sit down at the negotiating table, even though the (ex-Soviet) states have a stake in one another and common interests. This is enough to build a community of our states, in particular as we have a will to develop exactly these kind of relations. In fact, we already have such a community, no matter whether it has been formalized or not. The main thing is not to demand that the partner do the impossible," said the Russian president.

Mr. Yeltsin hailed the practice of signing bi- and trilateral agreements and described the meeting of the heads of Russia, Belarus and the Ukraine as historic.

On Saturday the Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk is expected to arrive in Minsk. Then the Russian, Ukrainian and Belarus leaders will head for a governmental residence in Brest region to negotiate behind closed doors.

According to Mr. Yeltsin, the leaders of the three Slav countries will continue a search for common elements in their positions, "of which we have quite a few."

The Russian president noted that today the only way to cope with the crisis is through radical reforms, and that half-measures are no longer workable. "We have chosen this road and we'll not leave it, no matter how difficult it may be," said he.

Economists estimate that following the price liberalisation, prices are likely to rise 3 to 5 times.

Mr. Yeltsin expressed the hope that the measures the government is taking will not let incomes drop more than 30%. The government plans to hold the lower limit of consumption of essential goods at two-thirds of the minimum consumer basket.

The Russian president announced that prices would be freed of all commodities, with very few exceptions, at the same time. The Russian Government plans to hold the credit expansion of banks in check and work is on to set up an efficient banking control system, said Mr. Yeltsin.

Asked about the possibility of a new military coup, Mr. Yeltsin said he did not believe there was a clear and present danger of a coup, though there is tension in the army, and it must be taken into account, i.e., steps must be taken to build a stronger safety net for the military.

Yeltsin, Shushkevich News Conference

LD0712143791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1401 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Minsk, 7 Dec (TASS)—Boris Yeltsin and Stanislav Shushkevich, the leaders of Russia and Belarus [Belorussia], have denied rumors that the fate of the former USSR will be decided by Russia, the Ukraine, and Belorussia alone. They stated this today at a brief news conference after their bilateral talks in Minsk.

"It is another matter that we have in a very detailed and frank way been exchanging views on this subject, but I cannot yet predict anything," Boris Yeltsin said. Stanislav Shushkevich added: "We shall seek a worthy way of collaborating and establishing truly sovereign states."

Asked about possible territorial claims on the Ukraine by Russia, Boris Yeltsin emphasized: "Now is the wrong time for us to clarify territorial issues. It is necessary to seek points of interaction and cooperation and to map out ways to improve the situation. Let me repeat, there can be no junior or senior partners; all our relationships must be developed on a purely equal basis."

Yeltsin's Arrival Statement in Minsk

LD0712113591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1021 GMT 7 Dec 91

[By BELTA correspondent Vladimir Glod]

[Text] Minsk, 7 Dec (TASS)— The "times when someone was artificially regarded as the elder brother and someone else as the younger brother have gone forever. Both Belarus [Belorussia] and Russia have become sovereign states," Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia, declared this morning when he arrived in the capital of the Republic of Belarus for the signing and ratification of documents that are of interest to both republics. "We cannot do without each other. We will sign the treaty as equal partners," he stressed.

Referring to the meeting to be held this afternoon between the leaders of Russia, the Ukraine, and Belarus, Boris Yeltsin said: "We must discuss very seriously what Union to participate in and what treaty to sign. I believe that we must without fail work out a viewpoint that will prevent our three Slav states from splitting apart, no matter what happens."

Minsk Meeting 'Beginning of Consensus'

PM0612211691 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Dec 91 Union Edition p 10

["Editorial Viewpoint" article: "Meeting in Minsk: Beginning of Consensus"]

[Text] Sometimes the very fact of an event happening at all is more important than what has actually happened. This applies to the meeting of leaders of three republics—Belarus [Belorussia], Russia, and the Ukraine—in Minsk. After the referendum in the Ukraine and the election of the president of that republic, it has become extremely clear that the old joint life, which for many years was described as fraternal, is over. Coexistence between independent neighbors is beginning. What will it be like?

For the whole of the previous week, the world was in suspense: What will happen after the birth of a mighty new state in Europe? The inevitability of this was obvious. But how will the changes affect the distribution of forces? Will the western part of the former USSR become an arena of tension and military clashes, or will it be possible somehow to avoid a Yugoslav-style showdown? This depends primarily on the words and deeds of the top men in the independent states.

We are at a crossroads. Some forces, fairly powerful forces, are demanding a halt to the republics' flight and make no secrets of the methods by which they would try to achieve this—namely, by force. Other, equally influential forces insist: It is better to prevent war through talks than to count your losses. The Minsk meeting offers hope that civilized methods will be chosen.

How will we live from now on—that is of interest and concern to the population of all three republics. B. Yeltsin, L. Kravchuk, and V. Shushkevich are to discuss the principles of mutual relations at both a personal level and a state level. But the important thing is that the meeting will be taking place immediately after the Ukraine's move to define its independent status. The political leaders did not wait to see how events would develop; they moved ahead of events, anticipating their course and direction. It is also noteworthy that they are meeting face to face and feel no need of an intermediary.

The Minsk meeting has another aspect which observers have already drawn attention to. Those taking part in the meeting are the leaders of the Slavonic republics of the former USSR. It is therefore possible to make assumptions about the emergence of some kind of Slavonic Union, distinct from the Muslim republics. But it seems that to reduce the significance of the "meeting of the three" to the Slavonic factor alone is to greatly oversimplify the political situation. B. Yeltsin, L. Kravchuk, and V. Shushkevich face questions that are more concrete and vital than calculations of a geopolitical, religious, and social nature. What they have to do first and foremost—and here we return to the first part of our commentary—is to sort out their relations among themselves. Here the equilibrium is very fragile. And we must hope that mutual understanding will be reached in Minsk.

IZVESTIYA Comments on Meeting

PM0612145191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Dec 91 Union Edition p 1

[Correspondent N. Matukovskiy report: "Minsk Prepares for a Meeting of the Three Slavic Republics' Leaders"]

[Excerpts] Minsk— [passage omitted] B.N. Yeltsin's visit to neighbors who for centuries have shared a common history and destiny is a positive and reassuring piece of news. [passage omitted]

Why Minsk and Belarus [Belorussia] exactly? Because against the background of general collapse, Belarus still looks more or less like an oasis of prosperity. Despite considerable difficulties, the work of industry has been stabilized. An increase in the pace of production was even recorded in October-November. And even if the year's results show a decrease in production, it will be no more than 1.5-2 percent, which in current conditions is quite good. Thus, interest in Belarus and its experience is understandable.

But Belarus itself is nonetheless extremely worried by the actions of its neighbors. For example, Russia has announced price liberalization from 16 December. Belarus was not intending to take such a "shock step" before the end of the year. But unless it takes the step at the same time as Russia, a powerful vacuum will form along the border of the two republics, sucking surplus goods out of Belarus. The republic has still not recovered from the shock blow inflicted on it by the Baltic states, primarily by Lithuania. Price liberalization there caused colossal damage to the Belarus economy. Things reached the stage where livestock was driven into Lithuania along unmarked forest trails at night.

This fact confirms the truth all too evidently: Even after becoming autonomous and independent states, the former Union republics are obliged to make joint coordinated decisions on vitally important "internal" problems. The integrated "socialist" economy has bonded us together tightly and, it seems, for a long time to come. Is it sensible to break these bonds—against the interests of the Union republics' sovereign peoples?

Kravchuk Rejects Responsibility for Union

LD0712201291 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1430 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk by unidentified correspondents at Minsk airport on 7 December—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Will you be persuaded to enter the Union?

[Kravchuk] The point is that no one can persuade anyone. If Kravchuk could be persuaded, the Ukrainian people cannot be persuaded—it has had its say.

[Unidentified correspondent] This meeting is being described here as historic.

[Kravchuk] Whether it is historic or not it should play, I consider, a very important role in determining how we shall live in the future, what plans to draw up, what interstate alliances to construct, how to preserve the people, preserve the economy, to cast aside political arrogance.

I do not want any leader today to say that Ukraine bears responsibility for the Union. There is no political logic here. If we used to say that the Union was a renewed federation, then this presumed the presence of all the republics of the Union, and just being renewed. [sentence as heard] Now, even by Mikhail Sergeyevich's logic, we are building a new Union. If it is a new one, then it is a new one. Then the new Union can have as members two states, three states, five, or twelve, and the new Union should not be made dependent on the Ukraine. I think that there is some sort of small hint that everything should be heaped on the Ukraine. They say it does not want it and so we do not want it either. But everyone knows in their heart that this Union is already doomed.

No more pertinent questions were permitted. Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk went off to another aircraft or to his own personal aircraft, to proceed further by air.

Republics Demand Russia Postpone Price Changes

LD0912095591 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] The Ukraine and Belarus [Belorussia] demanded that the introduction of liberal prices in the Russian Federation under Boris Yeltsin's decree be postponed for some time. They fear their food products and commodities will escapade [as heard] to Russia, a zone of high prices.

The Russian vice premier, Yegor Gaydar, has warned, however, that a delay in price changes will be tantamount to death.

Leaders Concerned About Moldovan Events

LD0812202491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1958 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Minsk, 8 Dec (TASS)—The leaders of the Republic of Belarus [Belorussia], the Russian Federation, and Ukraine, who today signed an agreement on creating a community of independent states, expressed serious concern in connection with the latest events in Moldova. We are convinced, the document says, that all the problems at issue in this republic, including the question of observing the rights of national minorities, should be resolved by peaceful means. Such a solution would meet the fundamental interests of people of all nationalities inhabiting Moldova. The meeting participants in Belarus called upon the opposing sides in Moldova to sit down at the negotiations' table to settle the differences.

Belorussia

Republic, Russia Sign Economic Agreement

OW0812212491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1922 GMT 8 Dec 91

[From the Soviet "Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [7 December] an exchange of ratification documents took place in Minsk together with the signing of an economic agreement between Russia and Belorussia for 1992. The two sides undertook to equalize the levels of goods shipments between the republics in 1992-1993. In 1992 accounts for goods shipments and services provided by enterprises and organizations are to be settled in hard currency, although in the case of certain mutually agreed types of goods payments will be made according to world prices converted into rubles at an agreed rate.

Sign Cooperation, Friendship Treaty

LD0712163991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1424 GMT 7 Dec 91

[By BELTA correspondents Yakov Alekseychik and Vladimir Glod]

[Text] Minsk, 7 Dec (TASS)—Belarus [Belarussian] Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich and Russian President Boris Yeltsin today signed a treaty between their republics. Afterwards, they handed over the text of a joint press statement, which says in particular that "the Republic of Belarus aims to turn its territory into a nuclear-free zone and to become a neutral state." According to the document, the sides will proceed on the basis that "cooperation within the context of their shared systems of collective security does not in itself impose any obligations on the sides as regards the formation of military alliances with their participation." The communique on the results of the talks, which has been distributed, notes: Both republics will pursue a course of strengthening friendship, good-neighborliness, and mutually advantageous cooperation in all spheres. The sides regard this course as the highest priority of their state policy. In this they are open to cooperation with other states. Their relations are not directed against any third party. Both Russia and Belarus recognized the expediency of close coordination of foreign policy, including the servicing of the shared external debt.

Republic Assumes Right to Issue Visas

LD0712051291 Moscow TASS in English 1124 GMT 6 Dec 91

[By BELTA correspondent Tatyana Khryapina]

[Text] Minsk December 6 TASS—Belorussian enterprises and organisations, wishing to invite foreigners, have to apply for a visa to the republican Foreign Ministry instead of the Soviet one. To get a visa it is necessary to report the length of stay, the itinerary and the purpose of the visit. The Foreign Ministry will "then inform the Soviet Embassy in the corresponding country on its decision. Visas will be issued within ten days.

The Belorussian Foreign Ministry is preparing a list of organisations which will have the right to issue visas themselves.

Republic Facing Secession Choice

PM0612152391 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Dec 91 p 1

[Correspondent O. Yegorova report: "The Belorussian Motif: Will The Meeting of the Leaders of the Three Slav States Influence It?": Plus Unnamed "Our Correspondent" Interview With Ukraine President Kravchuk]

[Text] Minsk—It is impossible at the moment to give a precise prediction of who in the Republic of Belarus [Belorussia] is unreservedly counting (or not counting) on Russia and on Yeltsin: the government, the opposition, the people? There is no unanimity in parliament, the intelligentsia, or the population.

I shall never forget how Prime Minister Vyacheslav Frantsevich Kebich could not hide his shock after Yeltsin's statement on the introduction of a Russian currency—not only his voice and his appearance changed, he also made an about-face in his own economic policy and strategy. Just yesterday it was "stable;" after the statement, it became catastrophic.

Here is a significant point. Paradoxical as it may seem, the republic has become even more dependent on Russia since declaring its sovereignty.

"Secede!"—I have heard that word not only in the parliament but also in higher educational establishments, in schools, and simply out on the streets.

Pardon me for saying this, but when have the hardworking people of Belarus known an occasion when the Minsk truck plant declared (not once, not twice, not even three times) an ordinary working day to be an official day off for almost the entire workforce, when dozens of plants and factories were on the brink of a total stoppage, and all because of the irresponsibility and disregard of Russian suppliers? On the other hand, is it not the same Russia that raised postwar Minsk from the ruins with its bare hands and laid the foundations for the Minsk truck plant, the tractor plant, and other plants with which it is breaking a contract today?

Now everyone is saying that Belarus is the most conservative republic or, to put it more brutally, the most reactionary... The Balts have already shown their character and introduced their own currencies. The Ukrainians have experimented, albeit not successfully, with their coupon system—a half-step but nevertheless a move toward people—while in Minsk they are clinging to old-fashioned residence permits and discussing which way is better, the Baltic or the Ukrainian.

I well remember how in the present Belorussian parliament they stamped their feet in unison when Ales Adamovich came to the rostrum on one occasion and plainly beseeched them to finally open their eyes to the best national traits of the people and use them for the common good: to encourage private farming, to transfer land into private ownership, to revive the private landowning peasant, and so forth. Look, the food program would have been resolved by now. But the deputies behaved almost unprofessionally—they behaved immorally. The long-suffering nature, diligence, and unaggressive nature of their own people were exploited just to gain time and be the first to "report back" to the center.

...Just recently the republic's draft constitution was published (but people have little faith that it will "work").

To secede, as the Ukraine has done? But can you commit suicide twice? We have already had one suicide—Chernobyl. That alone should sober people up. After all, the greatest lack of freedom is to withdraw into one's own narrow, sick, little world. To a Russian-speaking—Russian thinking and educated—people, secession is tantamount to renouncing Pushkin.

Meanwhile

To our correspondent's question on whether he will take part in the meeting of leaders of the three Slav republics—Russia, the Ukraine, and Belarus—Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk replied: "I shall take part in the meeting. First we must reach agreement on common economic problems, specifically on Russia's liberalization of prices and our possible joint actions in this matter."

Shushkevich Denies Claim of Imminent Coup

LD0712175391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2145 GMT 6 Dec 91

["Television News Service" interview with Belorussian Supreme Soviet Chairman S.S. Shushkevich by correspondent A. Gerasimov; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Gerasimov] Two days ago, newspapers carried information about the fact that Sobchak is very seriously worried and has corroboration that another coup is not out of the question. How do you feel about the possibility of such a thing happening?

[Shushkevich] You know, Sobchak probably has more information at his disposal than I do, and he was speaking about St. Petersburg, wasn't he?

[Gerasimov] No, he was speaking about the Union, about the former Union.

[Shushkevich] You know, I hope that in Belorussia people have the understanding required of the difficulties being experienced by those forces potentially capable of carrying out a coup—that is to say, the military, as no one else can carry out a coup. If there is already a secret agreement, like the State Committee for the State of Emergency, and if it is more obvious to Sobchak, then it would be good if he could be more specific, because there was a time when Eduard Amvrosiyevich, probably owing to a sort of intuitive feeling, sensed that something was brewing, but generally speaking, he did not help put a stop to it. So let Anatoliy Sobchak draw experience from previous affairs, and let him make a more specific statement.

Moldova

Preliminary Results Show Snegur Wins Election

OW0812211091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1922 GMT 8 Dec 91

[From the "Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Presidential elections took place in Moldova on Sunday [8 December]. Preliminary results indicate that Mircea Snegur, the incumbent president and only candidate in the elections, has received more than half of the votes so that run-off elections will not be necessary.

Over 80 Percent of Citizens Vote

AU0912081591 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0720 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 9/12/1991—According to the latest information supplied by the Central Electoral Bureau the participation in the voting of the presidential elections in the Republic of Moldova on December 8 was over eighty per cent. The results are to be released on Thursday, December 12, or at latest on Friday, December 13.

Elections Situation Updated

LD0812171791 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1538 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Excerpts] And now, about the elections taking place 8 December. Over to Kishinev where our special correspondent Leonid Lazarevich can give us, or at least speak on, certain preliminary results. Go ahead, Leonid.

[Begin Lazarevich recording] [passage omitted] About the situation in Pridnestrovye: You know that the circumstances there are far from straightforward, and we have been there today. According to various reports, about 50 or 70 polling booths are working. We visited one of them where the situation is absolutely calm and people are voting. This was in the village of (?Lyunko), not far from Dubossary. The turnout in this village has been very high, and people have been coming here to vote from Dubossary, where there are no booths. The main thing, though, is that the elections have passed calmly, although I would like to stress that on the bridges and on the roads approaching Pridnestrovye there are armed sentries who are checking vehicles. [end recording]

Leonid, in this respect, your reports coincide with those we received a little while ago from, unless I am mistaken, the REUTER agency. There are reports from Dubossary that polling booths are not operating there, and there has been mention of armed people on the bridges. But judging from your reports, the situation is a little different.

[Begin Lazarevich recording] No, there are indeed armed people on the bridges. When I crossed over to Dubossary, they checked my documents and politely let me through. There were no questions at all. There are about 70, or maybe 50 polling booths working. But if all the booths were to be working, I do not know exactly how many there would have been in Pridnestrovye, but I think several hundred at least. Where the local soviets have decided to hold the elections, they are taking place. Where the local soviets have decided otherwise, they are not. To recap, on the first of the month, Pridnestrovye held a referendum on its independence and the creation of its own independent republic, the Pridnestrovye-Moldova Republic. On the whole, not all on the left bank who want to vote are able to, this is a fact. There are elderly people living in, let us say, Dubossary. The village of (?Lyunko), where I was, is three kilometers away. Not everyone would want to go there, but I must say that there is a cold snap now in Moldova, and it is not easy for the armed sentries on the bridges and roads, or for those who have to cover several kilometers, to cast their vote. [end recording]

Leaders Comment After Vote

AU0812163291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1513 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Chisinau [Kishinev] ROMPRES, 8/12/1991—Valeriu Muravski, prime minister of the Republic of Moldova, and Mircea Ion Snegur, its acting president, voted at the No. 71 constituency in Chisinau on Sunday [8 December] morning. After the vote, the two dignitaries made brief statements to the ROMPRES special envoy.

Valeriu Muravski said inter alia: "I think that the election of the president of the Republic of Moldova today means the population's option for the independence and sovereignty of the republic, for peace, understanding and economic reform.

"After the election of the president we will take firmer steps towards economic reform because so far there has been only talk but now the government boasts a well-established programme. We will take firmer measures as concerns the question of the Dnester region. We have to do with a group of leaders that want to frighten us through the force of weapons. We will resort to political and diplomatic ways of holding them responsible. Another aspect is order and discipline in the republic. I believe that at this time of crisis all democratic and progressive forces will be consolidated through a legislative power."

In his turn, Mr. Mircea Ion Snegur said: "The fact is significant that the people show interest, that they are aware that this is an act that gains full independence. The people are aware of the deep-going economic reforms to be achieved in the republic. As for the question of the Dnester region I think all the measures agreed upon in the conciliation committee should be applied, therefore, everything possible will be done for conciliation."

As for cooperation with Romania, Mr. Snegur said: "An extensive cooperation in culture, an economic cooperation through the creation of joint enterprises, the opening of additional crossing points to and from Romania and the formation of offices to exchange roubles for lei and the other way round."

Snegur Praises Observers

LD0812183891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Mircea Snegur, the leader of Moldova, assessed positively the role of the observers from the United States and other countries and of those from republics of the former Union during the presidential election held today. Snegur emphasized that their participation is just a beginning, testifying to the democratization of our society and to our responsibility towards the present and the future. In the words of the republic's leader, time will show who is right and who has only spoken in the people's name without taking account of their interests, but pursuing just his own selfish political ends. Observers do not doubt that Snegur will obtain the necessary half of the votes plus one, out of the number of voters who took part in the election.

Snegur Notes Platform, Answers Questions

AU0712172391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1655 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Chisinau [Kishinev] ROMPRES, 7/12/1991—The televised news conference of the president of the Republic of Moldova Mircea Snegur was the final stage of the campaign for the presidential poll on December 8, MOLDOVA PRES reports. Mircea Snegur set forth the guidelines of his programme and answered numerous questions asked by representatives of the leading newspapers and magazines in the republic, by foreign journalists who came to Chisinau to cover the elections.

Mircea Snegur stressed his platform pursued peace and good understanding in society, normal living conditions for the entire population of the republic, social protection for citizens during the implementation of economic reforms, the safeguarding of human and minorities' rights. By taking part in elections, he stressed, the electors will also vote for the independence of the republic.

Answering questions asked by journalists Mircea Snegur rejected rumours that after the elections he would intend to dissolve parliament. In his opinion that measures could be taken only after the adoption of the new constitution whose draft, now being worked out, stipulates the creation of a professional legislative corps. Nevertheless, we will probably reshuffle the government, he said, since my election platform envisages the formation of a government of national conciliation.

He criticised the stand taken by opposition leaders, those of the Popular Front in particular, showing they proved unconstructive spirit.

Referring to the situation in the Dnester region, Mircea Snegur said he relied on the common sense of the executives of local power bodies in the respective area who pledged not to prevent those who wanted to take part in the presidential poll to do so. Mircea Snegur stated that if elected president he intended to take a package of measures to settle the situation on the left bank of the Dnester. I will tackle problems moderately, politically, and I will not resort to tough administrative measures, he said in conclusion.

Transdnestrian Separatists Disrupt Elections

AU0812162991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1527 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Chisinau [Kishinev] ROMPRES, 8/12/1991—According to early information from Chisinau the presidential elections proceed normally in the Republic of Moldova with the exception of the Dnester and Gagauz regions, where separatists declared the Dnester and Gagauz Republics, that are not recognized by the Republic of Moldova.

Polling stations on the left-hand side of the Dnester opened only in several Romanian localities. They could not open in the towns of Dubasari, Ribnita, Grigoriopol, Tighina and Tiraspol with a majority Russian and Ukrainian population. Apparently there is a polling station in Tiraspol at the Pedagogic Institute. There are pieces of information saying that the population of Dubasari, where the opening of polling stations was not permitted, go to the nearby Romanian communes of Lunga and Pojora, where such stations are open.

Another news item reports that Romanian localities were blocked by separatist troops.

There is no vote in Comrat, the centre of the so-called Gagauz Republic, in the south of Moldova, but there are polling stations in the Romanian communes in the region.

The night of Saturday [7 December] to Sunday [8 December] was extremely tense in Bender, MOLDOVA-PRES reports quoting sources of the Interior Ministry of the Republic of Moldova. There are frequent appeals to assaults on the police headquarters which had been blocked by women supported by a paramilitary detachment consisting of roughly 100 persons armed with machine guns. All access routes to the town were blocked.

At the same time, military helicopters flew over Dnester localities, where the so-called Dnester Republic was proclaimed, throwing pieces of paper urging people to boycott the elections.

Whereas in the territory of the Republic of Moldova in between the Prut and the Dnester the elections proceed quietly, in broad lines, in the Dnester region there have been further incidents.

Round 1100 hours local time, the polling station in the locality of Lacau, Grigoriopol District, was blocked by armed detachments brought to Tiraspol by trucks. The electors were scattered with gun fires.

In Dubasari the police station has been attacked by armed separatist groups who ask policemen, faithful to the government in Chisinau, to surrender the building and their arms, threatening to occupy the headquarters by force otherwise.

Interior Ministry on Unrest

AU0712172891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1527 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Statement issued by the Press Office of Interior Ministry of the Republic of Moldova; place and date not given]

[Text] Chisinau [Kishinev] ROMPRES, 7/12/1991—Starting December 4, 1991, the leadership of the so-called Dnester Republic began a new campaign of persecutions and massive pressure against legal bodies in the towns and districts of Transdnestria, reads a statement of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Moldova newscast by MOLDOVA PRES. The goal of this mean action, the document reads, is to destabilize social-political situation and cause unrest on the eve of presidential elections scheduled for Sunday, December 8. The leaders of separatism try by all means not to allow the people on the left bank of the Dnester to freely express their will.

Practically speaking on December 6 all roads and bridges in Transdnestria were blocked by illegal armed groups carrying machine guns, machine pistols and other weapons. Over one thousand machine guns, grenade throwers, machine pistols, large quantities of ammunition and other weapons were received by the separatists from the depots of the Odessa Military Region. The document considers as "illegal" the decision of the authorities in Tiraspol on the creation of a "Republican Department" for defence and security and the appointment to the office of chief of that "department" of Lieutenant General G. Yakovlev, commander of the 14th Soviet Army, as well as on the formation, until January 2, 1992, of a regular army from Soviet Army units displaced in Transdnestria.

Firmly condemned are the repressive actions of the separatists against the employees of the Interior Ministry who did not pass under the jurisdiction of the alleged "Dnestr Republic."

The Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Moldova calls on the citizens not to let themselves provoked [as received] and not to listen to the foolish appeal of the alleged leaders and adventurous politicians, not to commit illegal acts which would inevitably lead to chaos and anarchy and, despite threats and blackmail, to take part in the presidential elections on December 8.

Leaders' UN Appeal Warns of 'Fascist Coup'

AU0612164491 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1400 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Our correspondent in Chisinau [Kishinev] has faxed us an appeal signed by Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, parliament Chairman Alexandr Mosanu, and Prime Minister Valeriu Muravski and addressed to the United Nations and the parliaments and the governments of all the states in the world. It states that the independence and integrity of the Republic of Moldova, as well as its security and even the life of its citizens, are threatened.

Army 14 of the Odessa Military District of the Ministry of Defense of the Soviet Union led by Colonel General Yakovlev—supporting the reactionary, separatist, and paramilitary forces in the counties on the left bank of the Nistru [Dnestr] and with the tacit agreement of the central authorities of the Soviet Union, including the Ministry of Defense—have launched an overt action against the Republic of Moldova by occupying the counties and localities of Grigoriopol, Dubasari, Slobozia, Tiraspol, and Ribnita, distributing hundreds of weapons to extremist elements, including common law criminals, and forming—in accordance with the order given by the Odessa District commander, Colonel General Morozov—(?ROSM) and (?TDO)-type shock troops and the Dnester battalion.

It is mentioned that the decision was coordinated with the Ministry of Defense of the Soviet Union. These troops are terrorizing peaceful people and are resorting to blackmail, dismissals, interdictions, cudgeling, threats, and to setting houses on fire.

A military dictatorship has actually begun to be installed in Moldova by the generals who are leading the military districts and the subunits of the Ministry of Defense of the Soviet Union.

The appeal emphasizes that the separatist forces have displayed their real face once more, namely during the putsch in Moscow on 19-21 August 1991, when they made statements of adhering to it and when they issued decisions and agreed to actions in order to achieve that putsch.

The efforts of the parliament, the president, and the government of the Republic of Moldova to solve through political means the conflict, which was created in an artificial way by the communist and pro-empire forces both in the Republic of Moldova and outside it, were constantly thwarted by these forces, which never respected the obligations they had assumed. In response to the measures taken by the republic against the putschist actions of 19-21 August 1991, the separatist forces, supported by the units of the Soviet Army deployed in Moldova, undertook actions to block railroads. At the same time, certain political circles and mass media in the Soviet Union and Russia launched a campaign of supporting the reactionary putschist forces in the Republic of Moldova under the pretext of defending human rights and ethnic minorities.

In order to avoid any kind of conflict, the leadership of the Republic of Moldova agreed to sign on 1 October 1991 a conciliation protocol aimed at stabilizing the situation in certain localities on the left bank of the Dnestr, which was also signed by representatives of the Russian parliament.

The representatives of the separatists of the aforementioned localities ignored all the provisions of this document and continued their actions to undermine the state order of the Republic of Moldova. The lack of grounds for speculation about the fact that in the Republic of Moldova human rights and the rights of ethnic minorities were allegedly violated by its leadership was also noted by the delegation of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, which visited the Republic of Moldova on 23-26 November 1991.

The appeal then stresses that on 8 December 1991 the president of the Republic of Moldova will be elected by the entire people. Violating Moldova's laws, the separatist forces and the military and paramilitary groups created with the help of the Soviet military units deployed in the counties on the left bank of the Dnestr on 1 December 1991 announced and held presidential elections of the so-called Dnesterian Moldovan Republic by resorting to threats, deploying military detachments and units, and blocking roads in the localities in that area.

After the commander of Army 14 of the Odessa military district, Colonel General Yakovlev, on 3 December placed the separatist forces in Transdnester under his jurisdiction, the military and paramilitary detachments of the separatists and the units of the Soviet Army proceeded to occupy the localities on the left bank of the Dnestr River by means of arms.

In the past two years, the leadership of the Republic of Moldova repeatedly approached the state power bodies of the Soviet Union to put an end to actions that undermine the sovereignty and integrity of the Republic of Moldova and threaten peace and stability in this area. Efficient measures were not taken by these bodies of state power; on the contrary, because of the tacit agreement of the central state power structures in the Soviet Union, including the Ministry of Defense, the recent actions were made possible, attesting to the beginning of a military-political putsch of a fascist nature against the Republic of Moldova. This fact may have tragic consequences for the whole region and may harm the interests of neighboring states.

Aware of the need to preserve peace and stability, we approach the parliaments and governments of the states in the world and the UN Security Council to take a stand and to undertake determined actions in order not to permit hostilities in this part of Europe which may have tragic consequences. We request and believe that it is necessary for the permanent observers of the UN Security Council and for representatives of other international bodies to be present in the Republic of Moldova.

Odessa Commander Denies Allegations

LD0712175291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1345 GMT 7 Dec 91

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Odessa, 7 Dec (TASS)— "Not a single Soviet Army soldier stationed in the Odessa Military District, including the territory of sovereign Moldova, is involved in the operations of which the Soviet Army is accused by the Moldovan leadership." Your correspondent was told this by Lieutenant General Yuriy Kuznetsov, first deputy commander of the Odessa Military District. Commenting on the appeal by the Moldova leadership, the lieutenant general said:

"I officially declare that there is not a single one of our soldiers there who would take part in actions of the kind we are accused of. In accordance with an order issued by the Union minister of defense, troops stationed in Moldova and the Dnestr region are not interfering in any operations taking place there. They remain in their localities.

"As far as the actions of Lieutenant General Yakovlev, commander of the 14th Army, are concerned, and his agreement to assume the duties of head of the security directorate of the Dnestr Republic, that is his own business. None of Yakovlev's deputies is taking part in any operations.

"Our information is that self-defense units are masquerading as Soviet Army soldiers by donning camouflage dress, which they have acquired from some unknown source. One of these is the 'Dnestr' unit, representatives of which have, evidently, sealed off bridges and entrances and exits from population centers. These same people are armed with weapons which, according to our information, they have obtained from the militia. We cannot be blamed for their actions. We ourselves—and I stress this—are not taking part in any operations.

"At 1130 today the Dnestr leader Smirnov telephoned me and asked me to take part in defending the population of the Dnestr Republic. On behalf of the command of the military district, I answered that we were carrying out the order of the Union minister and that all the units entrusted to us would remain where they were. After my categorical reply that the regular troops of the Soviet Army would not interfere in the development of events in Moldova and in the Dnestr region in particular, Smirnov threatened that 'then we, ourselves, will take weapons from you in order to defend ourselves.' In response to this threat, I answered that in such an event the army would be obliged to defend the places where it is stationed and the stores of weapons and munitions. At the same time, I stressed once again that the units of the Odessa Military District would not participate in any operation or on any side. They intend to carry out the order of the country's defense minister. At the same time I consider it necessary to state that the situation is becoming explosive since both the Moldovan side and the Dnestr Republic's self-defense units have a considerable quantity of weapons."

Defense Chief: Yakovlev Post Means 'War'

OW0612140291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1216 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "If it is confirmed that Lt.-General Yakovlev agreed to fill the post of chief of the Dnestr region's defence and security department, this will be tantamount to declaring war on Moldova," said Nicolay Kirtoake, chief of Moldova's military affair department, over national radio.

According to him, the army is taking an active part in training and equipping the Dnestr region's national guard. In the past it did so secretly. Now it acts openly, said the chief of the military affairs department. When army commanders can be forced to take the required decisions under pressure exerted by officers' assemblies, this means nothing but anarchy, he stressed.

The leader of Moldova's military affairs department believe that the military are engaged in a separatist coup in the Dnestr region.

Ukraine

Kravchuk Sees No Need for New Center

LD0612221491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1337 GMT 6 Dec 91

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Kiev, 6 Dec (UKRINFORM-TASS)—The presidential elections and the referendum held throughout the Ukraine were truly historic events, not only for the Ukraine, but for the whole of Europe and the world, according to Ambassador Wilhelm Heink, a special envoy of the German Foreign Ministry, who has arrived in Kiev to obtain on-the-spot information about the situation in the Ukraine. He was received today by Republican President Leonid Kravchuk.

The ambassador passed on personal congratulations from German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher on Leonid Kravchuk's election to the post of president. Germany, he noted during the conversation, is interested in the development of normal interstate relations with the Ukraine. We have much in common, but most important of all, both sides agree that the changes taking place in the former USSR must not upset security and stability on the continent.

At the ambassador's request, the president of the Ukraine set out his view of the Soviet Union's future. Leonid Kravchuk stressed: We are advocates of interstate relations between the republics that used to belong to the USSR, without there being any center. Above all, the Ukraine wants to conclude an interstate treaty with Russia. This would be a stabilizing factor in Europe. Belarus [Belorussia] also may join this union. These and other questions will be discussed during the meeting of leaders of the three republics in Minsk which is scheduled to take place on 7 December.

The Ukraine, Kravchuk declared, intends to observe all international pacts, agreements, and treaties, and consistently to advocate the destruction of nuclear weapons, the reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces, and goodneighborly relations with all countries, including Germany, with which durable and mutually advantageous ties have been established in recent years.

Kravchuk, Others on Defense, Union, Arms

LD0812145691 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0730 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Report by station correspondent Istvan Kulcsar, including remarks by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, date and place not given; interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk by Kulcsar in Kiev, date not given; and remarks by Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov; Zlenko, Kravchuk, and Morozov speak in vernacular with superimposed Hungarian translation; introductory paragraph read by announcer—recorded]

[Text] The declaration of Ukranian independence has shaken the empire. Istvan Kulcsar, on returning home from Kiev, is examining the most important issues after soliciting the views of the most important personalities there. First to speak is Ukranian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko:

[Zlenko] Ukraine is reconfirming its international obligations, and in accordance with the law on legal succession by Ukraine adopted on 12 September, it professes to be the legal successor of the previous Soviet Union everywhere, with the exception of areas that contradict its constitution. The declaration of the Ukraine Supreme Council on 23 October this year confirms that the republic accepts and is ready to pay its own proportionate share of the Soviet foreign debts—for instance, the share it receives from the assets of the former Soviet Union. This amounts to approximately 16 percent. Ukraine will set up its own army whose staff level will be determined by the law in the spirit of rational sufficiency.

[Kulcsar] The first question which everybody asked Leonid Kravchuk, who was elected the president of Ukraine a week ago, was whether Ukraine would enter the new confederation, whether they will join the new federal treaty initiated by Gorbachev:

[Kravchuk] My view about this draft treaty is negative because it would create a three-tier state—the first tier local autonomy, the second is the republic, whereas the third is a state above states. In other words, these are three legal entities, three legal subjects in terms of international law. Such a state is doomed to failure, it would not be able to survive.

[Kulcsar] Are you not afraid that Boris Yeltsin will raise the issue of borders, the ownership of the Donets Basin—populated by Russians—or the Crimean Peninsula?

[Kravchuk] I do not think that he will ever deal with the border question following the attempt he once made. That created a stormy reaction, both in Ukraine and throughout the world.

[Kulcsar] Why is Ukraine creating its own army? The announcement in this respect has been received with anxiety throughout the world.

[Kravchuk] Why does every other state have its own army without that causing anxiety? This is nonsense. If all the countries of the world decided to disband their armies, Ukraine would be the first to sign this treaty.

[Kulcsar] Should conflicts break out within Ukraine would you make use of the army?

[Kravchuk] I do not see even the possibility for territorial conflict breaking out in Ukraine as a result of our internal processes. Should such a conflict come about at all, it could take place only under the influence of external forces, but even in this case we would not deploy the army, not even the National Guard. We would like to carry on with our politics in such a way that we can stave off any kind of nationality conflict, as has happened hitherto.

[Kulcsar] Mr. President, you mentioned earlier that Ukraine would not join the federal treaty but would it be ready to participate in the inspection group for the maintenance of the nuclear arms possessed by the former Soviet republics as long as these weapons exist?

[Kravchuk] Yes we are ready to participate and to support the principle of collective security. We are ready to cooperate with the republics involved with regard to strategic nuclear forces.

[Kulcsar] I asked Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov about the details of the nuclear weapons in Ukraine:

[Morozov] The 23 October declaration of the Ukraine Supreme Council asserts that strategic nuclear weapons exist in the Ukraine only temporarily and that they will be destroyed within the shortest time in accordance with the Soviet-American treaty. The Ukraine leadership was among the first to support the initiative by Presidents Bush and Gorbachev with regard to the elimination of strategic weapons. Ukraine's own army will not possess nuclear weapons; our country wants to build its army in such a way that it will reduce in number and reassign the Soviet troops currently stationed in Ukraine. We shall thus reduce the staff level and armaments, and in terms of size will keep only an army which is necessary for our defense.

Foreign Minister Views New Political Concept

LD0612225991 Kiev Radio Kiev in English
0100 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] At the press conference for Ukrainian and foreign journalists, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko informed all those present about a foreign political conception of the new independent Ukraine.

[Begin Zlenko recording in Ukrainian with superimposed English translation] I'm glad that the transition to independence is made by the peaceful means, written on the new page in our [changes thought] written not in blood but in ink. So the new independent Ukraine is arrived. New tasks are put forward before the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The question is to develop and implement the whole complex of measures to defend national interests of the Ukraine. The greater concern is international commitment, and in accordance with the law on succession of 12 September this year, the Ukraine is the successor of the former USSR in treaties that do not contradict its Constitution.

The second question is the issue of debts. In its statement of 23 October of this year, Verkhovna Rada—the parliament—has confirmed its readiness to repay its share of foreign debt, and at the same time to obtain, to get the assets of former USSR, its share of these assets.

The question of armed forces: the Ukraine will create the armed forces of its own, as well as the Republican Guard. This will be made in accordance with the statement of 22 November this year, gradually, taking into consideration the existing social-political realities only by means of concluding treaties, agreements, and consultations with other sovereign states and the USSR Ministry of Defense. The quantity of the enlisted men of the army will be established by law and on the basis of the principles of reasonable sufficiency. And it will also be determined by the guarantees of collective defense. Proceeding to responses we shall take into consideration the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces [in Europe].

Next question is the issue of nuclear weapons. Taking into consideration all the factors of national security, the Ukraine will realize its intention to become in future the neutral nonnuclear state, not taking part in military blocs and it will observe three nonnuclear principles. The Ukraine will take part in realization of all treaties and agreements on the nonuse of nuclear weapons, the treaty START signed in 1991 between the USSR and the United States, included into the part concerning its territory. I would like to stress that the Ukraine has no control, and it does not want to have control over the nuclear weapons situated in its territory. [Words indistinct] must be transferred to the hands of the united command, that is of command of the Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus [Belorussia]. [Word indistinct] weapons must not be taken out of its territory, or transferred in some other way, only for elimination and besides, in the framework of negotiating process, under the multilateral international control.

The next block of issues is the questions of democracy and human rights. Being a European state, the Ukraine has repeatedly talked about its intention to be the full-fledged participant of the all-European process. In this connection, the Ukraine takes all the international law obligations and commitments resulting from the documents of CSCE, and it will strictly observe the human rights covenants and will proceed from the principle of priority of these rights.

The issue of borders: the Ukraine has repeatedly stated and states once more its territory is indivisible and inviolable. It respects the inviolability of the existing borders, and it has no territorial claims to any state. We are against categorically of the [changes thought] for the revision of Helsinki agreements [as heard].

We have intention to inform even the states participants of the Helsinki process about their territorial claims.

Laws on Structure of Defense Forces Passed

OW0712004091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0004 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian parliament passed a law on Friday [6 December] "On Ukrainian Defense." This law empowers the Ukrainian president to be the general commander of the armed forces of the republic and the chairman of the Defense Council.

According to the law the president has the right to call for general or partial mobilization for war in case of a military attack on the Ukraine and to start military actions in separate regions.

The basic principle of the law, according to the Ukrainian military doctrine, provides only for defensive preparation in the structure of the armed forces.

The law confirms that the Ukraine will observe neutrality and three anti-nuclear principles: not to accept, prepare or acquire atomic weapons.

The document proclaims that the Ukraine will not launch a first strike against any country, and that the Ukraine has no territorial claims on any states.

Another law passed on the same day declares that the armed forces of the Ukraine will be made up of an army, air force and navy.

Use of any strategic arms located on Ukrainian territory should be decided by inter-governmental treaties.

President Receives U.S. Undersecretary of State

LD0712164591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1407 GMT 7 Dec 91

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Grigoryev]

[Text] Kiev, 7 Dec (TASS)—The Ukrainian delegation is taking a package of important proposals to Minsk where a meeting will begin today involving the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus [Belorussia]. The proposals concern the political and economic interrelations between the republics of the former Soviet Union, matters of collective security, and nuclear arms control. This was stated today by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk during a meeting with Thomas Niles, representative of the U.S. President and under secretary of state, who arrived in Kiev to acquaint himself with the principles of Ukraine's domestic and foreign policy after it independence was confirmed by its people. Leonid Kravchuk noted: Ukraine is attaching special significance to relations with Russia and supports Boris Yeltsin's initiative on signing an interstate treaty. It is prepared to sign a similar treaty with Belarus. Naturally, other republics, primarily Kazakhstan, may join them on an interstate basis. In this way, a community of states like the European Community, without any center as formerly understood, may emerge. This does not rule out the creation of a coordinating body, but not an organ such as the Interstate Economic Committee under Ivan Silayev's leadership has turned out to be. Ukraine intends to comply with all international pacts, agreements, and treaties, and to consistently advocate the destruction of nuclear weapons and the reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces, the president continued. It is seeking to develop mutually advantageous cooperation with all countries, including neighboring states and, particularly, wherever Ukrainians live—the United States, Canada, and other countries.

State Treaty Signed With Hungary

LD0612223491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1950 GMT 6 Dec 91

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Grigorev]

[Text] Kiev, 6 Dec (TASS)—A treaty on the main principles of neighborliness and cooperation was signed in the capital of the Ukraine today between the Ukraine and the Republic of Hungary. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Hungarian Prime Minister Joszef Antall, there on a brief official visit, ratified the document. The main principles by which the Ukraine and Hungary will be guided in their relations are defined in the treaty. Particular attention is devoted to the development of mutually beneficical bilateral cooperation in the sphere of the economy, science, environmental preservation, and the expansion and deepening of traditional mutual cultural ties. Jozsef Antall, who spoke after the signing of the treaty, noted that the election of the president of the Ukraine and the all-Ukrainian referendum are fateful events in the life of the people of the Ukraine. The prime minister wished the Ukraine success in the talks with Russia and Belarus [Belarussia], which are to take place on 7 December in Minsk.

CSFR Recognizes Independence

LD0912104391 Moscow TASS in English 1009 GMT 9 Dec 91

[By correspondent Igor Shamshin]

[Text] Prague December 9 TASS—The Czechoslovak Government decided to recognise Ukraine's independence, says a statement adopted at a special meeting of the country's top executive body here on Sunday [8 December].

The results of the recent nationwide referendum in the republic served as a basis for the recognition of Ukraine's full state sovereignty, the statement points out.

The Czechoslovak Government is prepared to cooperate with its Ukrainian partners, relying on the traditions of long-standing goodneighbourly relations and cooperation and proceeding from the principles of mutual respect and trust, the document reads.

The members of the Czechoslovak Cabinet of Ministers are convinced that Ukraine, as one of the countries that are successors to the USSR, will fulfill international obligations assumed by the Soviet Union earlier.

The republic is expected to bear a certain share of responsibility, on a treaty basis, for the political and economic agreements concluded by the Soviet leadership earlier and will abide by the provisions of all CSCE documents, the statement emphasises.

Price Administrator Explains Policy

AU0612121391 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian No. 33 (38), November 91 p 1

[Interview with V.G. Kotko, deputy minister of the economy and chief of the Main Administration for Policy With Regard to Prices at the Ukrainian Ministry of the Economy, by URYADOVYY KURYER correspondent L. Samsonenko: "Russia is 'Liberalizing' Itself. How About Us?"]

[Text] The readers of URYADOVYY KURYER, alarmed by Boris Yeltsin's speech before the Russian parliament on the need to accelerate price liberalization, are asking whether the Ukraine's consumer market may be affected by this measure. People remember the recent case of raising "Russian" prices of meat and, as a result, mass exports of Ukraine meat and meat products.

L. Samsonenko asked V.G. Kotko, deputy economy minister and chief of price policy administration, to explain the situation.

[Kotko] If the readers of URYADOVYY KURYER listened carefully to the Russian president's speech, they could see that price liberalization was mentioned by him in the context of pushing the levers of the market economy. As you know, market economy is characterized by the transition from the system of distribution of resources, means of production, and consumer goods to their free sales at prices based upon demand and supply.

As Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin pointed out, "one month before the implementation of price liberalization, we will raise the salaries of teachers and physicians and will raise the minimum level of wages, pensions, and scholarships. There are plans to implement reform in the sphere of remuneration for labor by the end of the current year." Similar methods will precede price liberalization in our republic, too. An indexation of monetary incomes, as one of the measures for social protection of the population, will be carried out in correspondence with the Ukrainian law "On the Indexation of Monetary Incomes of the Population."

It should not be forgotten that the liberalization of products and services from the administrative "price" control is a constituent part of the process of our republic's transition to the market. In particular, the main trends of the economic policy under the conditions of independence that were recently discussed by the Ukrainian parliament made provision for limiting the sphere of state regulation of wholesale prices to the main types of structure-determining products and to transport and communications services. Let me remark that even now, almost one-half of all prices (including retail ones) are no longer established by the state. These are either free or contract prices. Therefore, the questions of price liberalization in the Ukraine are nothing new. It is planned to expand the sphere of utilization of free prices and tariffs first of all to agricultural products and production and technological services. There will also remain less consumer goods whose prices will be regulated by the state. There are plans to leave [zalyshyty] state subsidies for the group of foodstuffs of special social importance. Of course, the accelerated process of price liberalization in Russia will demand that we, too, introduce certain amendments into our policy with regard to price formation. In particular, this concerns the rates at which prices will be freed from state "protection."

Bukovina Groups Contest Referendum

AU0712172991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1543 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 7/12/1991—The cultural societies in northern Bukovina contest the results of the referendum and the elections held on December 1 in the territory of the Cernauti [Cernovtsy] region and more particularly in the settlements with predominantly Romanian population.

In a communique sent to the ROMPRES correspondent in Suceava by Eugen Patras, executive vice-chairman of "Mihai Eminescu" Society specifies that according to surveys made by observers and representatives of the society in numerous polling stations, like that in the No. 10 School in Cernauti, the election lists were deliberately shortened to ensure a high percentage of participation in elections. Likewise, in a number of settlements among which Buda Mica, Pasat, Godinesti and others absenteeism was massive elections being not validated because of the small number of voters. In Robcean votes were faked, the members of the electoral commission introducing more than 600 counterfeit bulletins.

Worth mentioning is the fact that on the days that preceded the referendum and the elections in the Ukraine, the population, the Romanian population in particular was subject to a strong psychological pressure. During a press conference, Ivan Gnatyshin, chairman of the Cernauti Regional Soviet of Deputies, threatened that absenteeism would be punished exemplarily and considered the statement in favour of boycotting the referendum by the Romanian cultural societies as an anti-state act, warning that their initiators would bear the consequences of Article 62 of the Penal Code.

Armenia

Vice President: Economy Virtually Paralyzed

OW0612140891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1216 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia's Vice-President Gagik Arutyunian has said that the republic's economy is virtually paralysed. The news agency SNARK quoted him as saying that because of acute electricity and gas shortages only 33% of Armenian plants and factories: Those designed to ensure the people's livelihood, are functioning.

Under the circumstances Armenia's government is taking vigorous measures, the vice-president said in a televised statement on Wednesday. 400 railway cars with foods arrive in Armenia from Georgia daily. A big base has been set up in Krasnodar from where foods will be brought to Armenia by heavy-duty trucks and special planes.

On Tuesday, G. Arutyunian said, an agreement on economic cooperation with Russia was signed in Moscow. A similar agreement is to be signed with the Ukraine in Kiev on Friday. Besides, in the next few days the prime ministers of Latvia and Belorussia are to come to Yerevan.

Economic Cooperation Accord With Latvia Signed

LD0912145291 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] An agreement has been signed in Yerevan between the government of the Latvian Republic and the Republic of Armenia on the principles of trade and economic cooperation for the period 1992-1995. [Video shows signing ceremony, cuts to following interviews with I. Godmanis, chairman of the Latvian Council of Ministers, and G. Arutyunyan, vice president and chairman of the Council of Ministers of Armenia]

[Godmanis] The time has come for mutual inter-state relations. There is no longer any third party, no center, nor anything else that used to operate for us. All of this has collapsed.

[Arutyunyan] We think that this is an example of asserting our independence, and we will continue to work in these terms.

Azerbaijan

Further on Events in Nagorno-Karabakh

Commander on Troop Withdrawal

LD0712214991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 7 Dec 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] The internal troops of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs will eventually leave Nagorno-Karabakh, it seems. The details follow in a report from our correspondent:

[Correspondent M. Mamedov, in progress] ...convoys transporting people and foodstuffs at long intervals. The reason for this is that helicopters are subject to constant fire. We witnessed the arrival of a helicopter from the village of (Gardarly), which came under ground attack. The internal troops stationed in the outskirts of settlements do not ensure the safety of flights and do not interfere in the conflict. While the military are busy packing, violence continues to escalate in this mountainous region.

[Begin V.N. Savin, commander of internal troops of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, recording] We have proved to be in a difficult situation at present, as we are aware of these accusations and demands coming from both sides. Both the Azerbaijanis and the Armenians accuse us of taking sides. For this reason I support the officers who ask me about their future and the timeframe of the withdrawal. [end recording]

[Mamedov] Maybe the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh will become somewhat less tense after the troop withdrawal. It is true that it is up to us to establish peace in our own house.

Shootings Reported; Talks Continue

LD0612174991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1423 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Moscow, 6 Dec (TASS)—Shootings took place yesterday in some populated areas of Nagorno-Karabakh, a region that has become a stumbling block between Azerbaijan and Armenia. According to the operative group of the Internal Troops of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD], particularly intensive shooting was going on in Kirkidzhan near Stepanakert, the Nagorno-Karabakh capital, where Armenians and Azeris live. People were wounded and six houses burned down in the Armenian part of the village overnight.

Meanwhile, healthy forces on both sides are trying to establish mutual contacts through military mediation. According to Leonard Petrosyan, chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Executive Committee, with whom there was a telephone conversation from Moscow, "those who are eager to wage war want to turn the Internal Troops into their allies, whereas we regard them as mediators."

It has been reported that it was precisely with the military's participation that a meeting of representatives of Mardakertskiy and the adjacent Terterskiy Rayons took place the other day. A similar meeting has been planned on the border between Askeranskiy and Agdamskiy Rayons today. Talks are under way on a cease-fire, on lifting road blocks, releasing hostages, and other problems that are causing concern for the sides. The contacts have been prompted by the concern of Karabakh's Armenians and Azeris for their future. After all, if large-scale operations start, it is they who are going to suffer. [passage omitted]

Dialogue With Armenia To Resume

LD0612214391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1915 GMT 6 Dec 91

[By AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku, 6 Dec (AZERINFORM-TASS)—Rasim Musabekov, adviser to the Azerbaijani president, told AZERINFORM today that the Armenian-Azerbaijani dialogue interrupted because of the military helicopter crash in Nagorno-Karabakh on 20 November may be resumed in the next few days.

The adviser denied the allegation that Azerbaijan intends to use the military helicopter tragedy to escalate tension in its relations with Armenia. "The explosion of the military helicopter," Musabekov stressed, "is not a unique isolated event. It is a link in the chain of terrorist and military actions which have been continuously conducted by the Armeninan militants against the Azerbaijani people for four years now."

Republic To Vote on Independence 29 Dec

NC0612163491 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] The meeting of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet National Council convened on 5 December. Deputies T. Kasumov, B. Vakhabzade, A. Gadzhiyev, H. Guseynov, M. Mamedov, M. Saradzh Ogly, and F. Dzhelilov made proposals prior to the approval of the agenda for the inclusion of several items, including additions and changes. The agenda was approved after the proposals were considered. The following items were included in the agenda:

1. Preparation for holding a referendum on the question of the Azerbaijan Republic's independence.
2. Organization of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet National Council's work.
3. The draft law on Azerbaijan's state border.
4. Information on the reasons for the crash of the MI-8 helicopter.
5. Urgent measures to establish security in the mountain areas of Nagorno-Karabakh and the rayons bordering Armenia.
6. Approval of Azerbaijan's agreements with Kazakhstan and Georgia on friendship, cooperation, and good-neighborly relations and with Uzbekistan on the principles of interstate relations.
7. The approach to be adopted on the legislative acts related to Ukraine and Baltic independence.
8. Current issues.

The deputies began to discuss preparations for holding a referendum on Azerbaijan's independence after the agenda was approved. Ali Kerimov, chairman of the central referendum committee, briefed the meeting on the matter. He said plans have been made to spend 3.5 million rubles on the referendum on the basis of initial calculations. Eighty-six electoral district commissions have been established. The referendum will be held from 0700 to 2000 on 29 December. The final outcome of the referendum will be disclosed on 9 January 1992, regardless of whether or not initial results are known prior to that date.

The National Council adopted a decision in connection with proposals for stepping up preparations for the referendum and broadening publicity for it. The deputies then began to debate the organization of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet National Council's work. Various proposals related to the question of formalizing the National Council's apparatus were considered and a wide-ranging debate was held on the matter.

Georgia

Further on Military Situation in South Ossetia

USSR Military Issues Appeal

OW0512174291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of servicemen of the USSR Interior Ministry's troops in South Ossetia called on the USSR and RSFSR presidents to pay attention to the situation of the military in Tskhinvali. The appeal disseminated in Tskhinvali emphasizes that war is on in the republic, and the Interior Ministry's combat elements in the region do not know what, if any, mission they have.

"We are not a gang, we are a combat collective and want to know whose interests we defense [as received] and against whom," says the appeal.

The letter demands that the troops be assigned a well-defined status; that South Ossetia be recognized as an emergency and combat zone; that the troops be supplied with all the necessities; and that the servicemen and their families receive social protection guarantees.

IF [INTERFAX] learned at the Georgian Interior Ministry's press-centre that the Ossets had fired rockets on the Georgian villages of Zemo, Kvemo and Nikozi for the last two days. No casualties have been reported.

The press-centre also says that the residents of the Georgian villagers in South Ossetia requested the Georgian president to extend food aid to them.

Internal Affairs Ministry Statement

AU0612162191 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1420 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Statement issued by the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs press center; place and date not given]

[Text] Dear radio listeners, you are no doubt interested to know about the situation in Samachablo [South Ossetia].

Ossetian extremists and units of USSR internal troops are carrying out arbitrary and violent actions every day.

As we informed you several days ago, a unit of USSR internal troops from Tskhinvali moved its post several hundred meters inside Gori Rayon. Not being satisfied with this, the military are moving further each day and have again moved their post several hundred meters.

In the town of Tskhinvali and on the sides of the road, signs have been put up bearing the inscription "Russian Federation."

The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs temporary headquarters has informed us that it will set up blockades in order to prevent the military from moving their posts further forward.

Attacks are being systematically carried out on the Georgian population.

It has become known to us that Ossetian militants carried out a [word indistinct] barbaric crime. [Word indistinct] in the town of Qornisi, formerly Znauri, they launched an attack on the house of Luba Trankadze, who was born in 1898. The house, which the 93-year- old man was in at the time, was burned to the ground. Mourners were not even able to gather his bones.

This is the sad news that the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs press center has communicated to us.

General Mobilization Ordered

LD0912120191 Moscow TASS in English 1112 GMT 9 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz December 9 TASS—The first self-defence detachments of South Ossetia have manned defence positions on the suburbs of Tskhinvali. Order No. 1 was issued today in the town by commander-in-chief of the republic's armed forces. It says, specifically, that all officers in reserve, petty officers, sergeants and privates should report to the headquarters of the commander-in-chief of the South Ossetian Armed Forces in keeping with the general mobilisation announced in South Ossetia.

According to the press centre of the South Ossetian Information Committee, fire was opened last night on public buildings and key urban utilities on the suburbs of Tskhinvali and in Znauri District. There is no exact information on the number of casualties, but it is learned here that several children and women were wounded during the assaults.

Georgian militants continue to gather on the approaches to Tskhivali. More than 20,000 of them are already camped in nearby villages. The Georgian side has concentrated there tanks, armoured carriers, "Alazan" anti-hail systems, artillery pieces and mobile large-calibre machine-guns. The town is waiting for the attack.

The peoples of North and South Ossetia have received positively the message addressed by Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the North Ossetian Republic Akhsarbek Galazov to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov saying, among other things, that the inhabitants of the region pinned their only hope on the president of Russia and the parliament of the Russian Federation, on their resolution to uphold human dignity and the rights of national minorities.

Supreme Council Appeals to UN

AU0912104891 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 6 Dec 91 p 1

["Appeal to the United Nations by the Republic of Georgia Supreme Council"; issued in Tbilisi on 3 December]

[Text] The Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia is giving much thought to the complicated situation that has taken shape in the mountainous part of Shida Kartli [area of Georgia into which South Ossetia has been reincorporated under its historical name of Samachablo by the Georgian Government] as a result of the occupation and actual annexation of the Georgian Democratic Republic by Soviet Russia in 1921. We believe that the processes that are taking place on this ancient Georgian land have been instigated by those forces that are promoting the creation of a new superpower on the territory of the USSR and that constitute a major obstacle to the restoration of the Republic of Georgia's independence. Thus, the so-called Ossetian-Georgian conflict has a political foundation. This is also confirmed by the protocol signed on 31 May 1991 by the joint commission representing the USSR, the RSFSR, and the Republic of Georgia.

The situation in this region has become particularly strained as a result of actions by extremist forces. Today, the goal of the empire has become fully obvious; that is, to do everything possible to bring about the transfer of part of the territory of the Republic of Georgia to the North Ossetian Autonomous Republic, or, in fact, to Russia. This is at variance with universally recognized legal norms.

The authorities, the president, and the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia have striven and are striving to resolve the situation that has taken shape by peaceful political means with all those who, proceeding from goodwill and legal reality, will contribute to putting an end to violence in this region, to the restoration of state independence of the Republic of Georgia, and to the protection of its territorial integrity.

Therefore, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia appeals to you to send your representatives to study the present situation.

[Signed] Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia
[Dated] 3 December 1991, Tbilisi

Legislature Says South Ossetia Moves 'Invalid'

LD0612191591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1755 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Tbilisi, 6 Dec (TASS)—The Georgian legislature has declared the resolution of the so-called Supreme Soviet of the South Ossetian Republic regarding its state structure and its joining Russia to be invalid and lacking in judicial force, the Georgian National Information Agency reports today. The Georgian Procuracy has been instructed to take measures in relation to those who have set up an antistate organization on the territory of the former South Ossetian Autonomous Republic, which has set itself the goal of seizing part of Georgia's territory.

The issue of the immediate withdrawal of USSR Interior Ministry forces and Soviet Army detachments, which are supporting Ossetian separatists, has been raised with the relevant bodies of USSR state authority. The parliamentary decree emphasizes that the presence of Soviet forces is one of the main factors destabilizing the regional situation.

General Condemns Attacks on Units in Tbilisi

AU0612155991 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 29 Nov 91 p 1

[Report on news conference given by Lieutenant General Yuriy Grekov, first deputy commander of the Transcaucasian Military District troops, by Konstantin Tsagareishvili; place and date not given: "We Must Prevent an Unpredictable Turn of Events"]

[Text] Lieutenant General Yuriy Grekov met with representatives of the mass media in connection with the armed attack on an Army unit in Tbilisi.

It was stated that early on 27 November at approximately 0300 [local time], a group of more than 30 armed people raided a small military subunit stationed in Avlabar [a district of Tbilisi]. The attackers forced the orderly to summon Major Vladimir Berilov from his quarters. As soon as Berilov opened the door, he was shot dead, point-blank, with a submachine gun. Berilov's wife literally begged the attackers to spare her life. The attackers escaped after seizing 10 special UAZ-162 automobiles belonging to the Military Motor Vehicle Inspection [VAI].

It was stated that this incident caused extreme indignation and anger among the personnel of the units and subunits, especially among the officers of the district. The command of the Transcaucasian Military District and the council of the district's Officers Assembly had to work hard in order to keep the situation under control.

The Military Council of the Transcaucasian Military District informed the president of the Republic of Georgia of this provocative and criminal action. The president, in turn, promised that all measures would be taken to find and punish the perpetrators.

Increasing numbers of criminal actions have recently been committed against servicemen in the Transcaucasus, especially in Georgia. Recently, the procurator of the Transaucasian Military District came under submachine-gun fire, and a similar attack was made on the commander of armored units.

The following figure was quoted: During the past year, 580 automobiles belonging to various military units and subunits stationed in the republic were hijacked. None of them was ever returned, despite the fact that the republic's law enforcement organs had been informed in time and about every particular case.

Such a development of events is fraught with unpredictable consequences. Servicemen are compelled to find more effective ways to protect themselves and their families and to guarantee the safety of military property, equipment, and weapons. New and more strict conditions for guarding and defending military facilities will be adopted in the Transcaucasian Military District.

Lieutenant General Yuriy Grekov answered questions from participants in the news conference, mainly about adopting decisions to declare the weapons, munitions, military technology, and other property of the USSR Ministry of Defense troops stationed on Georgian territory to be the property of the republic.

Cooperation Treaty With Latvia Signed 6 Dec

OW0712171791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1415 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A treaty on trade and cooperation between Latvia and Georgia was signed in Tbilisi Friday. Latvia's visiting premier Ivars Godmanis met with the Georgian President Zviyad Gamsakhurdia who, according to BF [BALTFAX] correspondent "reminded" the guest that the Baltic states should not forget "the outstanding role which Georgia has played in destroying the empire," and should not leave it without external help at so difficult a time.

Having completed its visit to Tbilisi, the Latvian delegation, which apart from Mr. Godmanis includes representatives of nearly all the republican ministries, has left for Yerevan to conclude an economic treaty with Armenia.

Cabinet Restricts Sale of Food, Other Goods

AU0912102491 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0510 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] The Republic of Georgia cabinet of ministers points out that in order to guarantee the protection of the social interests of the republic's population and in spite of the measures that have been adopted to preserve stable retail prices, measures taken by the center of the former USSR have resulted in an economic blockade being imposed upon the republic and have had a negative influence upon the supply of food and non-food products to the republic's population. There has been a sharp reduction in the stock of goods in the trade network. People arriving from outside the republic's borders are taking out consumer goods on a huge scale. The prevailing situation is contributing to the fact that current prices are low in comparison with those in other republics. In order to alleviate this situation and guarantee the rational utilization of existing resources, the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers resolves that:

1. Beginning on 11 December 1991, in the retail, cooperative, and commercial trade network on the whole territory of the Republic of Georgia, food and non-food products are to be sold only to the population residing within the Republic of Georgia upon presentation of a passport or any other identification document.

Guests, tourists, and other categories of persons arriving in the Republic of Georgia who are temporarily in the republic's territory or who are in transit will be limited to buying one half kilogram of bread, 200 grams of cold sausage meats, and one to three containers of canned goods and other retail products.

2. The mayor of Tbilisi and the prefects of towns and rayons are to ensure that military persons and their family members residing in the republic and other categories of citizens who, due to specific circumstances, do not possess documents proving they live in the republic, will be issued appropriate temporary certificates. These certificates are to be considered valid when presented with an identification card.

With the help of local departments of internal affairs, the sale of food products is to be categorically prohibited along roads and central highways, at places of mass gatherings, and in markets in the republic with the exception of the organized sale of (?regional and village goods) in the capital and in the republic's other large industrial centers.

3. The Republic of Georgia's Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Communications, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs are to establish strict control and take effective measures to halt the illegal removal of consumer goods from the territory of the republic and outside its borders via road, rail, air, sea, and other routes.

4. The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Trade, the Board of the Union of Cooperative Societies of Georgia, and ministries, departments, organizations, and enterprises that have a trade network, and also local government organs are to establish strict control in order to guarantee the implementation of this resolution.

[Signed] Besarion Gugushvili, prime minister of the Republic of Georgia

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev on Political, Military Agreement

LD0812190791 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Interview with Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev with unidentified correspondent at Moscow airport on 8 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] The meeting of the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, and Belorussia has ended in Belorussia. Behind closed doors, Yeltsin, Kravchuk, and Shushkevich adopted three final documents. A concluding communique, in which we expect to see the outline of the future union, will be published later. But for now, here is Nursultan Nazarbayev's view of of the Union. He was met at Moscow airport by our correspondent. [passage omitted]

[Nazarbayev] We shall be talking on this subject tomorrow, four of us plus Gorbachev.

[Correspondent] What is your forecast?

[Nazarbayev] I shall be very sorry if we fail to agree. In the final analysis it is not a matter of any kind of treaty. I was flying just now, and yesterday I was thinking: In the final analysis, we could stop frightening the world and at least agree on a political and military union, so that strategic weapons should be in one place. This is what I want to propose, primarily. And then, what can you do? From the very beginning to the end, and now too, I remain true to the view that our state must not be wrecked at this most difficult time, although everyone, of course, wants to feel independent after the totalitarianism, the imperial thinking that lasted for many years, as you know. I can understand this, the Kazakh people can understand it, as can all the people of Kazakhstan. But how will the process go? This does not just depend on me.

Russian Paper Welcomes Election of Nazarbayev

PM0912121791 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Dec 91 First Edition p 1

[Sergey Skorokhodov report under "Who's Who" rubric: "Nursultan Nazarbayev: 'Now I Want to Play With the White Pieces!'"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—As Sunday was drawing to a close, Nursultan Nazarbayev, by the will of the peoples inhabiting Kazakhstan, from being a president appointed by the Supreme Soviet became this country's first nationally elected president.

At a press conference Nazarbayev tossed off the phrase: "They said of me that in politics Nazarbayev likes to play black. Now I want to play with the white pieces!" Well, this is the first sign that he is bored with being a functionary, albeit of the highest rank. Bored with tramping up and down in the parliamentary mire, trying to touch up an economy which simply will not acquire a market hue, and keeping an eye on the silent opposition in the localities which the humdrum routine often conceals.

The election, in which 9 million of the republic's 10 million inhabitants took part and 99.86 percent of them voted for Nazarbayev, will enable him to demonstrate firmness. At any rate, he believes that the people have freed his hands so that he can undertake urgent actions to advance economic reform toward the market. And right away in December he intends to adopt a number of radical decisions in this direction. One of them, Nazarbayev stated, will be the already drafted law on strengthening the executive power for the transitional period. It is no mystery what lies behind this law. The proxy system is already well known in our country. Functionaries appointed by the president will be the supreme executive power in the 15 oblasts of Kazakhstan.

But for the moment, asked whether presidential rule will be introduced in the republic, Nazarbayev answered that it is already there, since there is a president. At the same time "We in Kazakhstan do not reject the traditional power structures," Nazarbayev stressed, meaning the soviets. While understanding perfectly well that the combination of presidential power and soviet power is a nonsense, and that contradictions will multiply in this area every day, he hopes to maintain equilibrium here too, by maneuvering and thoroughly shaking up the deputy ballast in the structure of the soviets.

Blaming the immature democracy, as is traditional, and doing all he can to strengthen the vertical executive power, the president is hardly going to develop or strengthen democracy itself in Kazakhstan. However, "The social imperatives formed over 74 years of Soviet power will not permit society to be run from below, as we had hoped," he believes. "This is why the reforms are coming from above." True, the most recent years of our unhappy country's life have proved that a "revolution" from above is nothing other than yet another round of apparatus games with the administrative apparatus. Remembering this, the Kazakh president did not tire of repeating that the linchpin of his election program is the social protection of Kazakhstan's inhabitants, above all the most disadvantaged citizens.

Nursultan Nazarbayev was not being disingenuous when he claimed that the election of a president unopposed was a blessing for Kazakhstan. It really is so. Parties and movements, which are not numerous but are nationalistic in spirit, in a republic where only 42 percent of the population are Kazakhs are capable only of sowing the seeds of discord. Only an international party or movement can count on power in the circumstances of such a state, the president believes. A shrewd expert on the psychology of his people, he has hitherto managed to keep the growth of its national self-consciousness in check, not allowing it to slide toward primitive nationalism. The Russians, Ukrainians, Germans, and Belorussians who make up in aggregate more than 50 percent of the republic's inhabitants showed in the election how highly they value this.

Council Considers Resettlement Program for 1992

LD0812073691 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2159 GMT 5 Dec 91

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kazakhstan's Council of Ministers is to consider and approve an objective complex program for 1992 for those nationals wishing to return to their historical motherland. It is supposed that in the nearest future documents regulating resettlement, as well as agreements with other sovereign states and foreign countries, will be blueprinted to determine the procedure and conditions of resettlement of Kazakhs wishing to return to Kazakhstan, PF [POSTFACTUM] was informed at the republican Council of Ministers. Under the program, the immigrants will be provided with material resources for housing construction, as well as labor places, professional training and retraining.

Municipal Leader Halts Alma-Ata Privatization

LD0712113791 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1359 GMT 5 Dec 91

[From the "Business News" section: "Privatization and Denationalization in Alma-Ata Halted by Municipal Council Chairman Zamanbek Purkadilov"—POSTFACTUM headline]

[Text] [no dateline as received]—The newspaper VECHERNYAYA ALMA-ATA reported on December 4 that chairman of the city's municipal council, Zamanbek Nurkadilov, issued a decree to halt privatization and denationalization in the city until it is subdivided into the property of the Union, the republic, and municipal property.

By his decree, Nurkadilov also halted the discussion of proposals for the privatization of enterprises situated on the city's territory, regardless of who is their owner. The major also ordered all banks to halt monetary operations connected with the privatization of facilities in Alma-Ata. He decreed that all matters regarding the privatization and destatization be agreed upon with the Alma-Ata municipal council with participation of deputies.

Leninist Communist Party Congress Opened 6 Dec

LD0712174791 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 7 Dec 91

[From the Vesti newscast]

[Text] The congress of the Leninist Communist Party of Kazakhstan opened in Alma-Ata on 6 December. The congress's foremost task was to revive the Communist Party. The communists oppose the sale and purchase of land, the passing off of state assets, uncontrolled privatization, and the exploitation of working people in the private sector. But they also favor a switch to a regulated market economy, a federal union of sovereign republics and, of course, a restoration of the Soviets' monopoly on power. The congress's policy statement says that an anti-Soviet coup is taking place in the country under the pretext of defending democracy and glasnost. Personal power is being established at all levels, it goes on. Nina Andreyeva sent a passionate greeting to the congress. It seems that the communists have forgotten about the events of August and are now in a resolute mood.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Issues Decrees on Social Support, Taxes

LD0712192591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1104 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Bishkek, 5 Dec (TASS)—Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev today issued a number of decrees directed towards social support for the republic's population. In particular, a decree "on measures for the support of the living standard of the republic of Kyrgyzstan, who are provided for by the state" envisages a minimum scale of a working pension of 180 rubles. Grants for students of VUZes and pupils of secondary specialized educational establishments will be increased by 40 rubles a month. Two decrees concern taxation and currency policy in the republic. In connection with the suspension of the allocation of subventions from the Union budget and means from the Union-republican fund for the social support of the republic, all enterprises and organizations of Kyrgyzstan from 25 October of this year [as received] are suspending deductions to the Union budget and the all-Union fund for the stabilization of the economy, and directing them to the appropriate republican structures. A presidential decree "on urgent measures to regulate currency relations in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan" provides for all types of obligatory currency deductions established by the Union bodies to be annulled. It has also been stipulated that up to 80 percent of currency receipts obtained from the export of production is to remain at the disposal of commercial organizations, and no less than 20 percent liable to compulsory sale through commercial channels to republican, oblast, and the Bishkek municipal monetary funds.

[Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1500 GMT 8 December broadcasts a similar report which adds the following: "All restrictions on labor remuneration will be abolished as of January 1992. Akayev also signed two new decrees today on setting up the Kyrgyz republic's agrobusiness center and the Kyrgyz Peasants' Bank."]

Tajikistan

Bilateral Agreement Signed With Azerbaijan

LD0712053991 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0005 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] The governments of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Azerbaijan, based on mutual interest in developing trade and economic relations and the provision of favorable conditions for trade relations between the economic subjects of the two republics, have signed an agreement on the principles of trade and economic cooperation for the year 1992.

The agreement was signed by Hayayev, the prime minister of Tajikistan, and Gasanov, the prime minister of Azerbaijan. Both sides agreed that enterprises from both republics will supply goods to each other during 1992 to a total not less than the 1990 level and will take measures to equalize the volume of goods supply at acceptable levels. The agreement also specifically states that both republics will refrain from actions which cause economic harm to the other.

The governments of the republics will assist in continuing, establishing and developing direct economic links between Tajikistan and Azerbaijan enterprises despite differing forms of ownership. Measures have been envisaged so that enterprises and organizations of the two republics do not export imported goods.

It was seen as necessary that the (?progress) of signing agreements between ministries and departments of the republics and signing of protocols, based on mutually advantegous cooperation, by completed by 10 December 1991.

Pakistan Resolutions on Afghanistan Supported

BK0612160291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Tajikistan has said it will support all the resolutions on Afghanistan developed by Pakistan at the United Nations. This was stated at the three-day talks between Tajik and Pakistani delegations, which ended in Dushanbe. The Pakistani delegation at the talks was led by Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and the Tajikistan delegation by Sadar Rahman Nabiyev. The two countries signed an memorandum of understanding on economic cooperation and two agreements on culture.

Electricity Supply to Industry Cut 15%

LD0812112291 Moscow TASS in English 0812 GMT 8 Dec 91

[By TAJIKTA-TASS correspondent Nina Merezhnikova]

[Text] Dushanbe December 8 TASS—The supply of electric power to the industrial enterprises of Tajikistan is being reduced by 15 percent in December. Street lighting in towns and countryside is being cut by half and electric signs will be switched off.

For years the republic has not only met its requirements for electric power but also supplied electricity to neighbouring areas. However, Tajikistan receives a quarter of the entire amount of the needed electric power from Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

Power supply particularly increases in winter when hydropower stations' capacities decline. Most of power stations in the neighbouring republics are thermal. They do not depend on the amount of water in rivers.

But this year Uzbek power stations are lacking fuel. Besides, many suppliers of electric power have been unable to carry out capital repairs on equipment properly for lack of spare parts. Therefore unscheduled shutdowns of power-generating units are not ruled out.

The shortage of electric power in Tajikistan is unlikely to be offset soon. Even if the question of financing the construction of the Rogun hydropower station is decided upon, the station will be able to begin to generate electricity only by 1994.

There is hope that the Pamir hydropower station will come into operation next year. But it will make it possible to stabilise the power supply situation only in Gorniy Badakshan.

Turkmenia

President Niyazov Signs Agreement in Turkey

LD0812145291 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] The visit to the Republic of Turkey by President of Turkmenistan Saparmurad Niyazov is over.

[Begin reporter A. Nurmuradov recording] President Niyazov held talks with Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and with President Turgut Ozal. The result is the signing of a friendship and cooperation agreement between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Turkey. The agreement provides for the opening of consulates general in Ashkhabad and Ankara.

The sides also agreed to cooperate in the communications and telecommunications field. In addition, it was decided to examine possibilities for linking the two republics' railways and roads via Iran and for the opening of air links between Ashkhabad, Ankara, and Istanbul.

In the economic sphere, the sides agreed that Turkey will render technical aid for the development of Turkmenistan's banking sector and will study the question of granting credits to assist Turkmenistan's transition to a market economy. On its part, Turkey is interested in receiving fuel and power supplies and cotton from Turkmenistan. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Kuliyev Interviewed

OW0712045491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Interview with Turkmenistan Foreign Minister Avdy Kuliyev by correspondent Konstantin Zavistovskiy;

place and date not given; from the weekly "Nation & Society" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "INTERFAX" correspondent Konstantin Zavistovskiy interviews Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Avdy Kuliyev.

Corr. [Correspondent]: It has been a month since Turkmenistan declared independence. Has any concept for the republic's foreign policy been developed yet?

Avdy Kuliyev: The concept was developed before independence was declared. The first step is to establish ties with the Union republics, especially with Russia. We have invited the Russian foreign minister for a visit to Turkmenistan, and it is possible that he will come to Ashkhabad by the end of the year. It is also expected that a document on the establishment of closer ties between the Russian and Turkmenistan foreign ministries will be signed. We plan to develop relations with neighboring states, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan and India are especially important to us. We are also thinking about establishing contacts with industrially developed states, the United States, England, France, Germany, Japan Italy and other European states. We have a rather core concept for foreign policy—we want to establish mutually beneficial relations with all states. The main principle of the concept is not to ask for aid, but to achieve equal cooperation.

Corr.: What steps will you take to realize this concept?

A.K. [Avdy Kuliyev]: Our representatives will defend Turkmenistan' political and economic interests on an international scale. Turkmenistan's ambassadors have already started working in Kabul, Paris and Delhi. We have agreed to Turkey's proposal to open a general consulate in Ashkhabad, and we should now agree on the proper time. We are also planning on opening our representations in Turkey, Iran and other countries. The first step could be in the form of union embassies. These questions are now being worked out.

Corr.: At what stage are your contacts with the Islamic Confederation Organization [ICO]?

A.K.: We are discussing the possibility of joining this organization. We are now drawing up the necessary paper for the ICO secretariat.

Corr.: Has the question of signing the Union Treaty been discussed in the Turkmenistan government?

A.K.: Yes, after our President S. Niyazov returned from Moscow he shared his thoughts on the new draft of the treaty. I think that our republic will sign the Union treaty. Turkmenistan was always in favor of preserving the Union. We also support the idea of having only one control over atomic weapons.

Corr.: Evidence that the republic is prepared to pay its part of the Union foreign debt is rather contradictory. What do you have to say about this?

A.K.: I think that Turkmenistan will pay the debt, if it has one. We must be shown where and how we are indebted, the secret of our debt must be uncovered.

Corr.: Do you think that Turkmenistan's developing trade with foreign states will hinder the fulfillment of economic obligation to its partners in the former Union?

A.K.: Obligations should be mutual. Turkmenistan has never refused such obligations and has always fulfilled them. Unilateral obligations should not exist. And I think that nobody loses if Turkmenistan and the other former Union republics conduct trade with each other according to world prices. Turkmenistan has never been a parasite.

Uzbekistan

Treaty To Be Signed on Assuming Union Debts

LD0912135491 Moscow Radio World Service in English 1300 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Uzbekistan will join a treaty on legal succession in respect of the Soviet Union's foreign debts and liabilities signed by the majority of sovereign republics. A spokesman for Uzbekistan has announced his republic will sign this document on 20 December after a recalculation of all assets of the former Union will be finished. The Russian Federation holds the largest share, amounting to 60 percent.

Presidential Candidate Favors Independence

OW0612232191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The candidate for President of Uzbekistan from the democratic party "Liberty," Muhammad Solikh, will work towards the complete independence of Uzbekistan, acknowledgement of its rights according to international law and membership in the United Nations. He will also introduce republican legislation corresponding to the General Declaration on Human Rights and other international norms.

His pre-election platform was announced Friday in the Republic's Supreme Soviet's newspaper. Elections will be held December 29th.

Solikh is in favor of a market economy and free enterprise.

Acknowledging the equality of nations in the republic, Solikh intends to "strictly observe the status of the Uzbek language as the state language."

Movement for Democratic Reforms Holds Congress

LD0812102191 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Report by reporter Sh. Ganiyeva from the "TV Inform" newscast—all participants identified by caption]

[Text] Among the delegates and participants of the constituent congress of the Movement for Democratic Reforms in Uzbekistan are representatives of various political parties and social movements, public figures, people's deputies, and scholars who are well-known in the republic. They thoroughly discussed and adopted the rules and the political program of the Movement for Democratic Reforms, the drafts of which were prepared by the organizational committee of the congress.

The message of the two documents is to strive for an open and productive dialogue with all state and public structures in the republic, and consolidation of progressive forces in order to achieve interethnic accord in Uzbekistan.

[Begin USSR People's Deputy Zolotukhin recording] The main task of the Movement for Democratic Reforms is, in spite of everything, to work to preserve the Union, to preserve a single economic, political, and democratic space. [end recording]

["TV Inform" host Tokareva] The multiparty principles are rapidly becoming a reality in the political life of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, Erk Democratic Party, and the People's Birlik Movement have already been officially registered. Now, as you have seen, the constituent congress of the Movement for Democratic Reforms took place in Tashkent today.

Supreme Soviet Delegation Visiting Malaysia

LD0712100491 Moscow TASS in English 1546 GMT 6 Dec 91

[By UZTAG-TASS correspondent Svyatoslav Fenyutin]

[Text] Tashkent December 6 TASS—A delegation of the Uzbek Supreme Soviet flew from Tashkent to Kuala Lumpur on an official visit at the invitation of the Malaysian parliament today.

The focus of a visit which will last until December 13, will be to help familiarize the delegation with the Malaysian parliamentary process and to study the possibility of developing mutually beneficial cooperation between Uzbekistan and Malaysia.